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FURTHER REPORTAGE ON MONTEVIDEO ALADI MEETING

Chile Rebuts Mexican Criticism

PY131519 Paris AFP in Spanish 0011 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Mar (AFP) -- Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle said today that Mexico's efforts to condemn Chile in the UN Human Rights Commission is surprising because the charges are being made by a country that has for many years violated those rights.

Minister del Valle said that Mexico's institutional life is widely regarded as being weak, and its decision to raise objections against Chile is therefore absurd. He said that Mexico has maintained this attitude for years, and we cannot understand why.

The Chilean foreign minister said that when it comes to condemnations, Mexico and Cuba stand together, adding that fortunately no other Latin American countries can be compared to them.

Del Valle asked rhetorically whether there is a objectivity or discrimination when his country is accused. These charges are neither objective nor fair, they are not made on moral, but on political grounds, he added.

We observe this and smile, but not without annoyance and distress, because we think that many countries which set themselves up as great defenders of human rights are nothing but the worst violators in our continent, Del Valle added.

The foreign ministers of Mexico and Chile are now in Montevideo participating in the third meeting of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) council of ministers, which today closes its 2-day deliberations.

Mexico Rejects Chile's Charges

PY141518 Paris AFP in Spanish 0022 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Mar (AFP) -- Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda today deemed absurd his Chilean counterpart Jaime del Valle's allegation that Mexico is the least appropriate country to criticize Chilean human rights violations.

Sepulveda and Del Valle are attending the third meeting of ALADI foreign ministers in Montevideo, which will end tonight.

Del Valle today expressed surprise at the Mexican decision to charge Chile with human rights violations at the United Nations. He said that Mexico has repeatedly and massively violated these rights in the last few years.

A few hours later, Sepulveda answered his Chilean counterpart's accusations by saying that the organized international community (the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN General Assembly) has already answered Del Valle's absurd statement.

The Mexican foreign minister said that the UN commission has condemned the violation of human rights in Chile, and that, since Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship took power, the UN commission has been rejecting these violations every year.

Regarding Del Valle's comment on human rights violations in Mexico, Sepulveda said that Chile has been indicted by the international community for the last 13 years.

Sepulveda Addresses Meeting

FL131448 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0432 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Asuncion, 11 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor has said that invigorating the regional cooperation system is an immediate option for overcoming the crisis and establishing new bases for Latin American economic development

During a speech at the opening of the third meeting of ALADI's foreign ministers council, Sepulveda said that integration is the best way to obtain maximum benefits from the area countries' productive capacities and natural resources.

Our governments have a political responsibility to live up to future challenges with answers that will make possible joint participation of each and every one of us in the regional integration process, he stressed. He noted that Mexico's aim within ALADI seek to promote a joint development plan at the highest political levels.

Sepulveda added that in this context, it is necessary to implement the decisions ALADI adopted in Acapulco as soon as possible and with the consensus of all member states. These include eliminating trade barriers, establishing tariff preferences for area imports, implementing a regional cooperation agreement, and increasing exchange, the foreign secretary recalled.

Sepulveda remarked that it is imperative to approve regional regulations on safeguarding [salvaguardia], as well as a model to correct imbalances, in addition to establishing special cooperation programs to benefit those Latin American countries that are less economically developed than others.

On the progress of regional integration, Sepulveda said that the results do not correlate with the structural technological changes taking place in the world economy.

Contadora Ministers on Peace

PY140124 Paris AFP in Spanish 2113 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Mar (AFP) -- In a statement released today after 2 days of meetings, the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Contadora Support Groups announced in Montevideo the existence of new peace initiatives for Central America, but they did not reveal their contents.

The statement, which was released in the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry this afternoon, says that the ministers voiced support for the new peace initiatives, which include basic elements of the Contadora process.

However, the statement warns that the new initiatives will make a contribution to peace only if they respond with a sense of equilibrium to the essential and legitimate interests of all parties.

With the exception of the Panamanian foreign minister, the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) and the Contadora Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay) participated in the ALADI ministerial meeting.

The statement released today did not make any reference to the Nicaraguan note sent to the ministers in which the Sandinist government denounced the escalation of attacks by Honduras and requested the formation of an investigative and good-offices commission.

The document expresses the satisfaction of the Contadora and Contadora Support Groups over the resumption of direct dialogue among the five Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua). The presidents of these countries plan to meet in Esquipulas in April.

The statement indicates that the tour the foreign ministers made last January throughout Central America helped to identify the different positions, the difficulties encountered in the negotiations, and the prospects of the complex regional situation.

The foreign ministers' statement also indicates that after the peace mission concluded, the foreign ministers decided in Mexico that its main objective was the resumption of political dialogue and the reactivation of the negotiating process around several points of agreement.

The Contadora and Contadora Support Groups announced that they will continue to hold consultations in the near future to ensure that the Esquipulas meeting becomes a step toward peace.

The foreign ministers also indicated that the statement, which has 21 goals, and the Declaration of Caraballeda, which was approved by the five regional governments are common political assets and an effective basis upon which to achieve progress in the negotiations.

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN WILL NOT SEEK REELECTION

PY170103 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2320 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin believes he is still a very popular president, he reiterated that he does not want to run for a second presidential term, and he stated that the first thing he will do when he leaves the office will be "to rest for a period of time."

These remarks are contained in an extensive interview Alfonsin granted to German reporters at the Olivos residence. [passage omitted]

Reporter: Are you going to run for a second term?

Alfonsin: I want the Constitution reformed, but not so that I can seek reelection.

Reporter: What do you want to do after leaving office?

Alfonsin: For the time being I want to rest for a period of time and then we will see....

HOUSE SPEAKER SAYS IMF ACCORDS COULD BE IGNORED

PY142034 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Lower House Speaker Juan Carlos Pugliese yesterday warned the government might decide to ignore agreements reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) if domestic growth does not reach four percent during 1987.

Pugliese also referred to congressional debate on the bill which includes the possibility of divorce and accused old-line church members of "brandishing the cross and the sword on the government."

In other respects, Pugliese said the popularity of General Confederation of Labour (CGT) Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini had declined "ever since President Raul Alfonsin does not receive him in private any more." The veteran Radical deputy had met with Alfonsin Thursday to discuss details of the voluntary retirement scheme for the public administration. Pugliese had expressed doubts on the effectiveness of the system and suggested it would not prove beneficial "to pay good workers to leave and then have to rehire them because those who remain are not efficient."

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON MILITARY HUMAN RIGHTS TRIALS

Supreme Council 'Might' Resign

PY162359 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1924 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (DYN) -- On Friday, 20 March, President Raul Alfonsin will meet with top military commanders and Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena to study the situation created by the trial of Armed Forces officers for human rights violations committed during the antisubversive war, reliable sources reported.

As Justice Secretary Ideler Tonelli was stating that the present moment marks "the most critical point of the trials," high-level official sources confirmed the possibility that the nine members of the Armed Forces Supreme Council might hand in their resignation to Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena.

According to rumors that have been circulating for the last few days, they will resign because too little attention has been given to their request that the officers involved in human rights violations be judged by the military, not civilian courts. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, possibly a dinner, next Friday, Alfonsin, Jaunarena, and the top military commanders will study the situation in the three branches of the Armed Forces that resulted from the summonses issued and trials conducted by civilian courts of military chiefs and officers. The sources did not reveal where Alfonsin will meet with the defense minister and the chiefs of the Joint Military Command: Brigadier Teodoro Waldner; General Hector Rios Erenu; Admiral Ramon Arosa; and Air Force Commander Brigadier Ernesto Crespo.

Some unofficial spokesmen said that the meeting might take place at the Olivos Presidential Residence, while others said that they would meet at the Air Force installation in the military sector of the Jorge Newberry Metropolitan Airport. [passage omitted]

The main topics of discussion will be the internal situation in each of the three Armed Forces branches in the wake of the summonses issued by civilian courts to military chiefs and officers who are accused of ordering or actually committing illegal arrests, torture, and murder during the period of antisubversive repression. Many of these officers are currently serving rigorous preventive arrests on orders from various federal courts where their cases are being heard.

There are extremely conflictive situations, both in the Army and the Navy, over the imprisonment of young officers who at the time they allegedly committed the crimes were at the beginning of their careers. From the military viewpoint, these officers had only carried out orders under the "due obedience" rule, which would alleviate their guilt.

The opportunity may also be used by the military chiefs to explain to President Alfonsin the thinking of their subordinates in view of recent rulings dictated by various federal courts and the Supreme Justice Court. These rulings have denied the Armed Forces Supreme Council jurisdiction to continue prosecuting cases related to human-rights violations on the grounds that the military court acted "negligently."

Justice Secretary Edeler Tonelli today expressed his "most absolute conviction" that when the trials of military officers involved in human rights violations is over, "the Armed Forces will critically examine its past, and each officer will review his conduct in recent years." He also said: "We are going through the most critical stage of this trial," and he termed "artificial" the recent pronouncement of the Armed Forces Supreme Council, which made philosophical considerations about the antisubversive war, and asserted its jurisdiction over this judicial process. In this regard, Tonelli contended that the members of the military court "should have repeated what they said in their final sentence, before the civilian courts took the matter in their hands." [passage omitted] As for the arrests of military officers, Tonelli said that "preventive arrest does not imply conviction." Asked his opinion on supposed unrest in the Armed Forces, he said that "the climate is only natural, considering that military personnel are being submitted to due process. So, there must be repercussions within the institution."

He finally said that he is "absolutely convinced" that whenever "this is over, the Armed Forces will critically examine its past, and each one will review his behaviour during recent years, and then will join the common enterprise of national reconstruction." [passage omitted]

Alfonsin, Military Talks Denied

PY170017 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2237 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM) -- Spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez tonight told reporters accredited to Government House that President Raul Alfonsin's agenda does not include a meeting with the military leadership.

He stated that if such a meeting were to take place, it would be one of the regular meetings that the president conducts in his role as commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Jaunarena Views Jurisdiction

PY152141 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Mar 87 p 15

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Defense Minister Horacio Juanarena yesterday admitted that civilian and military courts "have opposite views" on important issues "which will be studied" by the ministry "together with the Supreme Court ruling" calling on appeals courts to ignore conflicts of jurisdiction presented by the Armed Forces Supreme Council and continue with human rights trials under way.

Juanarena, nevertheless, denied there was any unrest among military units and confirmed the position of the Armed Forces is of "total subordination to the constitutional government."

Convicted former Buenos Aires police chief retired General Ramon Camps yesterday published a signed article in the daily LA PRENSA calling on military personnel to "avoid being fooled by the fallacy of subordination to political power," especially in the present case, "where the nation is under occupation by foreign forces under a scheme which is incompatible with our interests."

Camps admitted the past military regime "repeated old and well known mistakes" in view of its "lack of direction, enormous blunders and its share of corruption."

The convicted general suggested that the military government was "defeated by foreign military forces and internal enemies" and as a consequence the current administration "is increasingly imbued with Marxism."

Camps blamed the "defeat" of the de facto government on "its alliance with antinational powers" which together with the abovementioned "mistakes" led the regime "into one of the most scandalous historical failures of recent times."

The statute of limitations stipulated in the Full Stop Law yesterday allowed Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Pla and other military officers serving in San Luis Province during the military regime to escape prosecution in 18 cases of human rights violations.

The Supreme Court ruling calling on appeals courts to ignore conflicts of jurisdiction which kept some cases in the Mendoza court tied up for weeks brought the Full Stop deadline on the PLA case to an end yesterday.

Hectic activity by court members prevented 35 other cases involving retired Generals Luciano Menendez and Jorge Maradona from being overruled by the statute of limitations.

Pla was accused by former security agent Jorge Velazquez of being the murderer of student Graciela Fiochetti on September 22, 1973.

Rear Admiral Horacio Mayorga yesterday said the Full Stop Law "failed to achieve any practical effects" because "the left took it as a concealed amnesty" while the Armed Forces "do not accept any form of amnesty" since "they think the war against subversion was legitimate."

Former Fifth Army Corps second in command retired General Acdel Vilas yesterday continued to testify before the Bahia Blanca Federal Appeals Court for the fourth consecutive day.

Details of the testimony were not revealed at press time last night but it is nevertheless expected that Vilas will go on providing information tomorrow on the dirty war against leftwing subversion in the Patagonia during the military regime.

Colonel Alcides Larrateguy was summoned to testify by the Resistencia Federal Appeals Court in the case investigating human rights abuses committed in Chaco Province. Larrateguy was a minister in the provincial administration and the strongman of the military junta in Chaco during the de facto government.

A total of 51 military and police officers have been arrested to this date in connection with human rights cases. Twelve have been sentenced while only five convictions were ratified by the Supreme Court. The rest are indicted and under rigorous preventive arrest.

FRG PRESIDENT WEIZSAECKER BEGINS VISIT 16 MARCH

Greeted Upon Arrival

PY161921 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1843 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM) -- FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker arrived at the military sector of the Metropolitan Aiport at 1530 [1830 GMT] for an official visit to Argentina.

Weizsaecker was met at the steps of the plane by President Raul Alfonsin; his wife, Lorenza Barreneche de Alfonsin; Vice President Victor Martinez; all the members of the Cabinet; Supreme Court President Jose Severo Caballero; the secretary general of the presidency, Carlos Becerra; and the chief of the Joint Staff, Air Force Major General Teodoro Waldner, among others.

Alfonsin Hosts Banquet

LD161205 Hamburg DPA in German 1028 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, (DPA) -- Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker has stressed the Federal Republic's willingness to help Argentina, as a reliable partner and friend, in solving her problems. At a banquet given by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin in honor of Weizsaecker, the latter said that the settlement of the question of Argentine debts was urgently required.

Wiezsaecker emphasized that the burden of debt under which many Latin American countries were suffering, had been created jointly by debtors and creditors. Therefore, they were also jointly responsible for finding a solution. The Federal Republic wants to make a contribution to bring about concrete arrangements that would do justice to the problems of the respective countries. However, these countries would have to show a willingness to adopt economic adjustment measures. Democracy in Latin America should not be jeopardized by poverty and injustice.

Weizsaecker empahasized that German industry had confidence in Alfonsin's measures for improving the economic situation. The two countries were economically important for one another. German investments in Argentina were the second highest in Latin America. A great number of FRG enterprises maintained branches and production facilities in Argentina. The Federal Republic was also trying to defuse the difficulties Argentina was experiencing in her economic relations with the European Community through an arrangement that suited all parties involved. Bonn was following with great understanding the initiated economic integration of Argentina and Brazil. [passage omitted]

PERONISTS ENDORSE CGT ECONOMIC PROPOSALS

PY130034 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Mar 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) — General Confederation of Labour [CGT] Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini and Justicialist Vice-President Jorge Triacca yesterday hugged goody-bye after the meeting in which the Peronist leadership expressed its support for the CGT's 26-point plan "as an alternative to the economic policy" of the government.

The presence of Ubaldini and Triacca was expected to end in a confrontation, as the former has taken a very critical view of the Group of 15, a new grouping within the CGT, of which Triacca is a member.

The Justicialist leadership headed by Senator Vicente Saadi backed the CGT's claim that the upcoming television debate between the CGT and the Radicals on the 26-point plan include all the other political parties.

Ubaldini pointed out that "the television space taken by the governing party must be granted to the rest."

Saadi read a joint Peronist-CGT statement to the press calling for the reevaluation of the origin of the foreign debt, and requesting the suspension of debt payments until Congress decides on the issue.

The statement also described the situation of pensioners as a "national disgrace."

A CGT delegation headed by Ubaldinai will today formally denounce the Argentine Government before the International Labour Organization for not abiding by international labour conventions. Talks in Congress on collective wage bargaining failed yesterday.

In other CGT news, Ubaldini followers within the 62 organizations yesterday blasted the newly-formed Group of 15 by saying that "they collaborate closely with an insensitive government which continues trying to divide the working class."

In other labour news, UOM Metal Workers Union, and management representatives will today hold a crucial meeting to consider an offer for a wage hike above 28 percent in an efort to conciliate the differences which have prevented the almost 400,000 workers from reaching an agreement on their new salaries. Buses resumed their work-to-rule yesterday with an uneven success rate and UTA Transport Workers Union Press Secretary Mario Caligari warned that if bus companies do not agree to meet workers demands, a general strike for an unlimited period of time could be decided next week. The work-to-rule is to last three days.

Austral Airlines' services went back to normal yesterday as from 7 pm after APA Airline Personnel Union decided to lift the protest measures they had been carrying out in view of the resumption of wage negotiations with the company. Finally, Economy Ministry personnel yesterday lifted the protest measures they had been staging when they agreed that as from March 23 incentive fund payments for 1986 will begin.

UBALDINI ASKS ILO TO TAKE STAND ON LABOR ISSUES

PY121749 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1520 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Mar (NA) -- CGT [General Confederation of Labor] Secretary General Saul Ubaldini today at noon handed to Orphal Hembrechts, the ILO regional director for South America, a document asking the ILO to investigate "the nonimplementation in Argentina of Articles Nos 87 amd 98 on trade union freedom and collective labor agreements."

Ubaldini, along with the members of the CGT executive board, went to the ILO offices where he held a lengthy talk with Hembrechts "on the situation of the workers in Argentina."

Government Rejects CGT Claim

PY142041 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 87 p 11

[Text] (DYN) -- The Labour Ministry yesterday emphatically rejected as "flagrantly inaccurate and unjust" a claim by the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) submitted to the International Labour Organization (ILO) saying the government was violating international accords on union freedom and collective wage agreements.

A ministry communique said the claims "are based on flagrant inaccuracies and charges that, at least, should be qualified as unjust."

The communique said that in the context of the relations between the government and organized labour and the efforts being made for pluralist co-existence, "this conduct of the men who today lead the CGT cannot be seen as other than another expression of an indiscriminate confrontation on all fronts."

The attitude of the CGT "eloquently evidences the certainly vain purpose of clouding the international prestige recovered after long years of prostration," the communique said. This international recognition stemmed from "unrestricted guarantees to enjoy the freedoms and functioning of the institutions," it added.

DOMESTIC TRADE SECRETARY DEFENDS PRICE FREEZE

PY130111 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Domestic Trade Secretary Ricardo Mazzorin yesterday said shortages and overpricing of goods are not a consequence of the wage and price freeze currently in force, and criticized retail shop owners who disregard maximum prices set by the government.

Nevertheless, he confirmed that although his department had no measures in mind, ideas were being considered just in case the prices of food products were hiked in the future.

Mazzorin also pointed out that "no one can say when the freeze policies will be over," thus putting an end to rumours that major changes were to take place before July.

Meanwhile, Price Control Under Secretary Carlos Bonvecchi acknowledged that, in view of the present level of real wages, it was hard to set a meat price profitable enough to enable producers to build up cattle stocks in the long term. "The latter would mean enough meat for the domestic market and Argentina's re-insertion in international markets," he concluded.

In related news, the Economic Penal Chamber yesterday granted an appeal to a supermarket which had been closed down by official inspectors for having six unmarked goods.

The measure means that as from now on, "closures will have to be based on reasonable grounds," the Chamber said.

BUDGET UNDER SECRETARY VIEWS ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

PY130035 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Budget Under Secretary Ricardo Carciofi yesterday said the Argentine gross domestic product (GDP) for 1987 would amount to 125 billion australs and that annual inflation was estimated at 42 percent.

During a very technical report to the Lower House Budget Committee, which is currently analyzing the 1987 budget bill sent to Congress last month, Carciofi also said that government would devalue the austral 24.5 percent this year.

He also went over the foreign debt payments due in 1987, saying that 4.1 billion dollars would have to be paid between December 1986 and December 1987. In this regard, he explained that Argentina will pay a 6.5-percent interest rate on its debt during the first semester of 1987, and 6 percent during the second one.

Carciofi added that exports will grow 10 percent, and said the country's global economic growth for 1987 is estimated at four percent when compared to the previous year.

As for the expenditures of public companies, the under secretary said that they would be covered with their own resources, adding that public fares would increase 4.1 percent this year in real terms.

The analysis of the budget will continue today, when Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea is expected to report on the monetary policy and the financial system.

AGRICULTURAL REFINANCING PACKAGE UNVEILED

PY142048 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- Agricultural Secretary Ernesto Figueras yesterday announced the implementation of a debt refinancing package as of April 1 and the launching of a "green bond," through which farm producers will be able to obtain financial assistance.

During a press conference, Figueras unveiled a series of measures aimed at bringing "financial relief to the sector." Also present at the conference were Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea, Buenos Aires Province Bank President Aldo Ferrer, National Bank President Mario Kenny, and representatives from four leading farm organizations: Argentine Rural Society, Argentine Agrarian Federation (FAA), Farm Intercooperative Confederation (Coninagro), and Argentine Rural Confederations (CRA).

The refinancing system will go into effect automatically for those producers holding debts -- up to a maximum of 15,000 australs -- with official banks. This system calls for a three-year refinancing term, with a one-year grace period during which producers will only cancel interests, at a regulated interest rate which has been set at four percent annually.

The "green bond," aimed at enabling farmers to obtain financial support for farm products, is an untransferable certificate guaranteed by official banks. Up to 5,000 australs of investors' resources will be used to finance the sowing of crops, payable within a 90-day term and at an annual interest rate of [illegible] percent.

Sourrouille opened the conference saying these measures "will ease the producers' situation and are a significant contribution to improve the farm sectors." He stressed that "it is indispensable for farm production to find a way to improve the country's economic condition."

The debt refinancing will include credits contracted before January 1, 1987 by producers whose main source of profit are farming activities. However, producers who have been granted preferential loans (for the flooded areas), Inter-American Development Bank credit holders, and those who have been granted credits to finance the coarse grain harvest are excluded from the refinancing system.

CORRECTION TO NEW YORK DEBT RENEGOTIATION TALKS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Report on New York Debt Renegotiation Talks," published in the 11 March Latin American DAILY REPORT, page B 1: Paragraph four, line one: ...controversial aspects on which the foreign banks insist, such as the elimination... (changing word "Argentina" to "the foreign banks")

Same paragraph, line three: ...dollar, one must be invested. The foreign banks also insist on a maximum... (changing "Argentina" to "the foreign banks")

MINISTER ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN DRUG FIGHT

PY141705 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Mar 87 pp 1, 5

[Excerpts] Information Minister Hermann Antelo has said that "the 3-year antidrug plan formulated by the government will require international cooperation for joint action to eradicate coca cultivation." [passage omitted]

In his statement, the information minister referred to a document released by the Bolivian Workers Confederation (COB) and the Single Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia (CUTCB), which calls for a mobilization against the replacement of coca cultivation.

Minister Antelo responded to that document by saying that "in the government's view, the COB position is totally mistaken and strongly demagogic. On one hand, the COB demands from the government a head-on attack against drug trafficking; and on the other, it does not want to admit that drug trafficking is stimulated by the excessive production of coca leaves." [passage omitted]

Answering journalists' questions, Minister Antelo said that "the United States did not exert any pressure to force the resignation and replacement of the interior minister and the agriculture, campesino affairs, and livestock affairs minister. Assertions in this regard are completely false," he added. Antelo emphasized that "the plan to fight drug trafficking in no way brought about the recent Cabinet crisis. At no time did the president consider it while making the decision to shuffle the Cabinet."

As for statements made earlier by former Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy and Agriculture, Campesino Affairs, and Livestock Affairs Minister Sandoval Moron, Minister Antelo said: "It seems to me that there has been some misrepresentation or distortion. The two ministers actively participated in all the talks with the representatives of the U.S. Government, and they never voiced any objection to the plan. Rather, they were its staunchest defenders. So, I think the information has been distorted or misrepresented." [passage omitted]

MNR DEPUTIES EXPELLED, SUSPENDED FOR 'MISBEHAVIOR'

PY132006 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] Superior Court of Honor has expelled one deputy and suspended three others for misbehavior. They voted to censure the national Cabinet of Dr Victor Paz Estenssoro during a session held on 9 March.

Deputy Hugo Velasco Rosales, the Santa Cruz MNR secretary, has been expelled.

Deputies Joaquin Argandona, German Gutierrez, and (Reynaldo Barron) have been suspended.

The resolution of the MNR Superior Court of Honor states the following: Exercising its specific powers this court publicly expels MNR member Hugo Velasco Rosales from the party with all the consequences involved, in accordance with the provisions of Article 129, Clause 'F' of the MNR party statutes, and suspends party members Joaquin Argandona for 90 days and German Gutierrez and (Reynaldo Barron) for 60 days. This resolution by the MNR Superior Court of Honor is fully backed by the statutes and will be implemented on this day.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CANCEL PENALTY INTEREST

PY112205 Paris AFP in Spanish 0312 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] La Paz, 6 Mar (AFP) -- Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Valdez reported here today that England, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and Denmark have canceled the penalty interest on the debt that Bolivia carries with those countries.

After meeting with President Victor Paz Estenssoro, the deputy foreign minister explained that the bilateral foreign debt with these countries totals some $300 million. He added that in the future an interest rate of only 0.5 percent per annum will be paid. The debt contracted by Bolivia totals $5.3 billion.

In addition, the deputy foreign minister emphasized that this allowance was granted talking into account the slump in tin prices -- tin is the main Bolivian export -- on the international market and the difficulties that Argentina is facing to make payments to Bolivia for the purchase of natural gas.

NATIONAL CENTRAL BANK TO CLOSE 16-18 MARCH

PY161432 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The General Manager's Office of the Bolivian Central Bnak has announced that the bank will not be open to the public 16-18 March. It has been announced, however, that the foreign exchange office [bolsin] will operate as usual. The communique is signed by general manager (Jack Trigo), who has explained that the measure is due to reorganization of the bank which is under way.

TRADE UNION LEADERS, WORKERS ARRESTED IN ORURO

PY101506 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Interior Ministry personnel yesterday arrested eight trade union leaders and workers of the metallurgical complex of El Vinto in Oruro.

Reporting on this action, the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers [FSTMB] has stated that its representatives had begun a hunger strike to protest the arbitrary dismissal of 50 metalworkers.

The FSTMB has accused the ECSENAP [expansion unknown] staff of acting blatantly and permitting the repressive agencies to act against unprotected fellow members.

The FSTMB suggests that the conflict may be overcome through negotiation, and demands the immediate release of the trade union leaders who are currently being held in the Oruro Penitentiary.

NATIONWIDE BANK EMPLOYEES SET STRIKE FOR 24 MAR

PY160059 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Mar 87 p 38

[Text] Campinas -- Approximately 10,000 bank employees from all over the country are holding a national meeting in Campinas, where yesterday they decided that they will go on strike beginning 24 March. The strike, which will be held for an undetermined period of time, will not go into effect if an agreement is signed by 23 March. The bank employees submitted a proposal to the banks 30 days ago, but it has not been answered. The employees are asking for a 100-percent salary increase, a minimum salary of 5,563 cruzados, job stability, and immunity for union leaders.

The bank employees, who are linked to the CUT [Sole Central Organization or Workers] and the CGT [Central General Organization of Workers] debated for more than 2 hours whether 24 or 31 March would be better for starting the strike. The former date was defended mainly by employees from Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia, where the minimum salary of the Banco do Brasil's employees is somewhat higher, while the delegations from the other states preferred 31 March because it is the day that the large private banks pay their salaries.

The impasse was overcome when the National Campaign Command indicated that most of the pressure would be applied against the Banco do Brasil if its employees struck first. Another argument was that if 31 March was chosen there would be no guarantee that the employees would be paid their salaries, which could be retained by the banks to make the strike more difficult. During the meeting, the 152 delegations approved a motion repudiating the Armed Forces' intervention in social movements.

Jair Meneguelli, the CUT president, on 14 March defended the calling of another general strike when he participated in the protest against the military occupation of the Petrobras refineries. The protest was organized by the Campinas and Paulinia Oil Workers Unions with the support of union centrals and political parties, but only 100 persons turned out in Largo do Rosario in downtown Campinas.

FRG PRESIDENT MEETS SARNEY DURING STOPOVER

LD160238 Hamburg DPA in German 2254 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Brasilia DPA -- This evening, Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker met President Jose Sarney of Brazil. On his flight to Argentina, Weizsaecker stopped over in Brasilia with his wife to meet Sarney who had invited him to dinner.

It was learned from the Federal president's party that the president discussed Brazil's external debt policy and Brazil's economic and social development. At Weizsaecker's wish they also discussed worldwide concern over the destruction of tropical rain forests. At the beginning of his talk, Weizsaecker stressed the excellent relations of both countries and expressed his pleasure at the Brazilian president's proposed visit to the Federal Republic.

The Federal president arrived in Recife in the evening and flew on a special Brazilian flight to Brasilia. The planned military ceremony was canceled because of heavy rain.

FOREIGN MINISTER'S NEPHEW ARRESTED FOR TERRORISM

PY161738 Paris AFP in Spanish 1531 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Santiago, 16 Mar (AFP) -- The weekly FORTIN MAPOCHO today reported here that a nephew of Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle is under arrest charged with belonging to the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], the clandestine left-wing organization which attacked President Augusto Pinochet in September 1986.

The nephew, who is a son of the minister's youngest sister, had hidden weapons in his house, according to the weekly which adds the arrest was confirmed by a brother of Jaime del Valle. The weekly said that the relative in question described the suspect as a youngster who got involved with terrorists for unknown reasons. The same relative, according to the FORTIN MAPOCHO report, also said that the prisoner will have to be tried just like anyone else and emphasized that the foreign minister has done nothing to get him released.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE; NO ARRESTS, INJURIES

PY131233 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Eyewitnesses have reported that excited agitators threw two Molotov cocktails at the corner of Alameda Bernardo O'Higgins and Amonategui, while some 50 students wearing high school uniforms were marching along the broad avenue shouting slogans against the government. The demonstrators built wooden and garbage barricades, which blocked traffic for several minutes. A few seconds after the Molotov cocktails exploded, Carabineros arrived at the site and dispersed the demonstrators. So far, no arrests or injuries have been reported.

Teachers Protest Dismissals

PY132013 Paris AFP in Spanish 0106 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Santiago, 12 Mar (AFP) -- The police today arrested 15 teachers in downtown Santiago during a demonstration against the government of General Augusto Pinochet. They were protesting the dismissals of 8,000 teachers from public schools. The police used truncheons and tear gas to break up the demonstrators who were protesting the massive dismissals and the closure of several schools following their transfer to the municipalities.

Some demonstrators carried banners saying: teachers dismissed, more ignorant Chileans. Others were shouting slogans against the military regime in the midst of police repression.

Osvaldo Verdugo and Jorge Pavez, leaders of the National Teachers Union, were arrested and taken to the police headquarters for interrogation.

Some policemen beat up photographers covering the demonstration when they were taking pictures of teacher Silva Gonzalez being beaten while she was on the ground. In addition to the teachers' demonstrations, on 10 March students and a women's group clashed with police and about 100 of them were arrested. The incidents have occurred only 3 weeks before the arrival of Pope John Paul II.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON 1986 REPORT

PY161805 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0958 GMT 14 Mar 87

[By Senen Conejeros]

[Text] Santiago, 14 Mar (EFE) -- The Chilean Human Rights Commission has released a report on the situation of human rights in Chile for 1986. According to the report, "the figures reveal an explosively worsening trend."

The report says that by comparison with 1985 "violations have tripled and have affected all basic rights." The report, which was received by EFE today, provides information on the violation of human rights. It also details the conclusion made by the team of lawyers who make up the commission which is headed by former Justice Minister Jaime Castillo Velasco.

According to the report, "there were one-third as many human rights violations in 1986 alone as there were during the entire period from the promulgation of the current Constitution [11 March 1987] and 31 December 1985." There were 75,001 reported human rights violations from 11 March 1981 to 31 December 1985. In 1986 alone, the reports totaled 35,547. The most important vilation of human rights during 1985 were: arbitrary arrests (33,665); cruel treatment (757); threats (559); torture (256); attempted murder (252); and deaths (58).

The report adds that during 1986 "the violations of human rights worsened, and as far as numbers are concerned last year's totals can only be compared to the violations that occurred during the state of siege enforced from 6 November 1986 to 6 1985." [date as received]

The report also indicates that during 1986 "the enforcement of justice deteriorated and the number of attacks on members of human rights organizations (169) and of the media (145 cases) increased."

A comparison between 1985 and 1986 indicates that violations during 1986 increased in the following manner: arbitrary arrests (from 9,116 to 33,665); banishments (one in 1985 and 13 in 1986); torture (from 168 to 255); and threats (from 398 to 559).

Arbitrary arrests are divided in the following manner: kidnappings (from 66 to 76); individual arrests (from 763 to 921); in demonstrations (from 7,188 to 11,304); mass arrest (from 1,099 to 21,307).

The commission believes that "the military government has developed two lines of action. The first line is aimed at implementing a project in accordance with the 1980 Constitution and is linked to the prolongation of the government beyond 1989." "The second is aimed at neutralizing the emergence of any other political choice through repressive actions which involve the violation of human rights."

The Human Rights Commission report also indicates "that exceptional laws still prevail in the country, therefore, citizens have not been able to enjoy the rights established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights either before or during the current Constitution."

MINISTER ON KENNEDY AMENDMENT, UN OBSERVER VISIT

PY162041 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Relay from La Moneda Palace by Eliana Henriquez]

[Excerpt] U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes suddenly returned to the United States today Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has reported. The foreign minister also said that at this morning's working breakfast with the U.S. diplomat and the Finance Minister Hernan Buchi, they presented to Ambassador Barnes the Chilean position regarding the amendment against Chile that is being introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy.

Minister del Valle reported that the U.S. ambassador was very receptive and listened to the Chilean position regarding the amendment that calls for economic sanctions. Thus, the minister added, it is expected that the ambassador will make known the Chilean position in Washington.

In the State Department's opinion, Del Valle said, the amendment is not advisable, therefore, he does not expect that it will pass in the U.S. Congress. On the other hand, Jaime del Valle admitted that the Foreign Ministry is studying the possibility of adopting a resolution against the visit of UN observer Fernando Volio.

[Begin Del Valle recording] (There is a protocol invitation). UN observer Volio should arrive in the next few days in Santiago. A decision against that visit has not been adopted, but, in view of what happened, we are studying it. We are studying the conditions in which this visit will take place, because the results in Geneva indicate that the countries which have participated in that agreement are not at all interested in the information or the opinion of this observer. The politicalization has reached such extremes that nothing practical can be accomplished by such a visit. [end recording] [passage omitted]

MDP CRITICIZES PINOCHET, CALLS FOR UNITY

PY121942 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The Popular Democratic Movement [MDP] today requested that all the opposition forces, expecially the parties that make up the Democracy Alliance [AD], reply to the Chilean people's demand for democracy and generosity. The MDP said that it is seeking a broad understanding to unite the opposition and recover democracy and freedom for Chile.

At a news conference this morning, an MDP leader pointed out that despite serious and deep differences, different sectors oppose the government and denounce its ineffectiveness and antidemocratic nature. Overlooking all the problems that affect Chileans, General Pinochet, Minister Cuadra, and the Armed Forces leadership have notified the country of their obsessive determination to remain in power beyond the year 2000 and to consolidate their institutionalization.

Jorge Heler, leader of the MDP and the MAPU-OC [United Popular Action Movement-Workers and Peasants Faction], said:

[Begin recording] the MDP does not want the country to suffer forever. In order to end this situation and recover democracy, we have always struggled with decision and sought an understanding. The MDP wishes to unite to the opposition and end the dictatorship.

It has once again been demonstrated that the only possible solution is the unity and struggle of all democrats. We call upon the opposition forces, especially the parties that make up the AD, to respond to the people's demands for democracy and generosity, as well as to the appeals to struggle and unite. [end recording]

The MDP said that once again Gen Pinochet has demonstrated that he is the main obstacle before the attainment of democracy. The MDP warns those who insist on seeking a solution within the framework of the 1980 Constitution and who believe that pressures and circumstances unrelated to a popular mobilization could thwart the government's will, must understand they are taking the wrong path.

The MDP believes that the political parties law has no other objectives than to favor Gen Pinochet and consolidate his regime. These laws are made for those who favor the regime and for those who want to subject themselves to it. [passage omitted]

OPPOSITION TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR FREE ELECTIONS

PY131602 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0259 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Santiago, 12 Mar (EFE) -- A group of Chilean personalities will announce tomorrow in Santiago that the opposition is launching a campaign for "free elections" in Chile.

This was confirmed by EFE with those who are promoting the campaign. These include 12 individuals, among them economists, lawyers, physicians, writers, engineers, artists, former ambassadors, and former congressmen.

The document that will serve as a basis for the campaign has been prepared in various meetings which were coordinated by Sergio Molina, former finance minister in the Eduardo Frei government (1964-70).

The objective, it was learned, is to gather support for a national campaign for free presidential and congressional elections, without setting a date for them. The campaign will be launched 13 and 1/2 years after the coup that brought to power the current military government, headed by President General Augusto Pinochet. There is no Congress.

Under the political Constitution which has been in force for 6 years, the Armed Forces should designate a single candidate who, if elected in a plebiscite in 1989, will hold the presidency for an 8-year term. According to the opposition, that candidate will be none other than Gen Pinochet, who is said to want to succeed himself after the 1989 plebiscite.

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES DRUG PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION

PA140419 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Mar 87 p 4a

[Editorial: "Is There a Position on Drug Trafficking?"]

[Text] As state institutions began to feel the blows of the cruel intimidation by drug traffickers and, with or without legal pretexts, they stop carrying out tasks the law has given them, authorized spokesmen of the community, writers, and respectable members of the judiciary have expresed serious and sometimes forceful objections to the policy being implemented to halt the spectrum of crimes generated by the drug trade.

It is argued that as a poor country, with all types of obstacles and challenges against the fulfillment of the basic duties of the state, with the subversive [as published] levels of unemployment we have, and with the trade and legal obstacles imposed by the foreign markets on our few export products, we must also shoulder the costs of fighting drug trafficking by ourselves. Even the most unknowledgeable in economic affairs understands that our effort, no matter how great, will be useless if it does not touch the huge, and therefore, tempting demand in the international centers of drug consumption. There are reports in the news daily about the indolence of the countries most affected by consumption which do not cooperate with us in resolving our economic difficulties, which are to a large extent the result of the destabilizing effect of the mixture of drug trafficking and subversion or of each of the components taken separately.

All of them in appearance are indisputable arguments. However, they inexplicably ignore the nature and terrifying dimensions of the enemy attacking us. This is not a problem of one, two, or three specific countries. It is a problem of all mankind. Never before have the young people of all latitudes, races, religions, or social conditions had their future so seriously threatened by the morally and biologically destructive action of a common enemy.

One can no longer commit the stupidity of stating that it is a problem that has different categories: that of the producers, who somehow benefit, and that of the consumers, who must arrive at a solution. The verdict is inevitable: all producer countries end up as consumer countries. If not, look at our example. However, the distinction fundamentally lacks any ethical content which makes it invalid. If the disease does not destroy us, let us take advantage of it at the expense of our fellow human beings. What an argument!

It is in the moral field where our country is losing the battle. With good faith that is above suspicion, the arguments that tend to view us as solidary victims of a process of decomposition that comes from outside greatly contribute to lowering the guard and to relaxing the already slackened moral fibers of the community in the face of a struggle that should be continuous and without quarter. It is a struggle in which there must be solidarity, support, and, above all, understanding from other nations regarding the common procedures and objectives that will attack all aspects of such a universal and multifaceted crime. It must be clear that this struggle is not the responsibility of anyone in particular but of everyone, as members of the human species, and that it cannot be abandoned, under any pretext, no matter how valid it might seem.

We are now experts in sailing in two seas. Sometimes we temporize with criminals of all kinds, including drug traffickers, and twist the imposing reality by using reason's most whimsical games; other times we open such a heavy fire that it soon dies away. The task of those who have the profound responsibility of forming opinions or affecting them is that of creating a clear awareness in the nation of the unsuspected evils of drug consumption and the unfathomable and troubled world created by drug traffickers. Their task is to create an awareness of the social decadence and the inevitable way in which drug trafficking undermines a country's political and economic system.

Of course, there are legitimate objections one could raise to powerful nations that should be our unfailing and solicitous allies in this difficult and unequal battle. But the most appropriate thing to do is to seek solidarity and understanding, without undermining the little moral strength we have left.

For example, it is necessary to begin conversations with the United States to agree upon very important state policies and for them to listen to our claims. These talks should not be conducted by the administrative organizations created for those purposes -- because they have the common vices and bureaucratic institutions found everywhere -- but by the top institutional organizations. The setting for that already exists. The only problem is that the Latin American countries have moved away from that setting and have turned to a rare device of isolation, supposedly to become the makers of their own destiny, without counting on the participation of those who willingly or not influence it the most. That natural setting is the OAS, which groups all the countries afflicted by the production or consumption of drugs. That regional organization is formed by a group of legal norms and multilateral commitments which bind almost all the American states and can be creatively and imaginatively used to help the resolution of conflicts such as the one we are confronting.

Colombia should not only resort to police and legal domestic instruments. It should also try to find more general solutions of a clear international commitment for a universal problem. This is the greatest problem that weighs on our peoples' fate at present.

UP COUNCILMAN KILLED; CANADIAN EXECUTIVE KIDNAPPED

PA120437 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0230 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Bogota, 10 Mar (EFE) -- The "war" between the guerrillas, the Army, and the "death squads" continued today in Colombia. One leftist council member was killed, a Canadian executive was kidnapped, and two Army soldiers were liberated by the Maoist rebels.

Gabriel Alfredo Briceno, a council member and leader of the Patriotic Unity (UP) Party, was murdered today in Villavicencio, 85 km southeast of Bogota, by an unidentified person who shot him at point-blank range.

Seven UP leaders and council members have been murdered in recent days, and approximately 360 have been murdered since this party -- considered the "political branch" of the FARC -- was created. [passage omitted]

Richard Paulson, a Canadian superintendent of the multinational "Occidental Petroleum Company," was kidnapped by four guerrillas in Arauca, capital of Arauca Department, some 460 km northeast of Bogota, the Defense Ministry has reported. However, no guerrilla organization has claimed responsibility as yet for the kidnapping. [passage omitted]

In Uraba, Antioquia Department, a banana area 600 km northwest of Bogota, the Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) released two soldiers it had been holding for 1 month. [passage omitted] The Army reported that it continued its operations today in the areas where clashes with guerrilla organizations have reently taken place, such as in Segovia, Antioquia where the "Jose Antonio Calan" column on Monday attacked a military base and wounded one officer, one noncommissioned officer, and six soldiers.

On Monday the Army of National Liberation (ELN) clashed in Arauca with 7th Brigade troops. Three guerrillas were killed and two prisoners were taken.

Details on Kidnapping Reported

PA132253 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 11 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Security officials of the Arauca national intendancy have identified the kidnappers of Canadian citizen Rick d'Qulson [name as published], a high-ranking official of Occidental Petroleum Company, as members of the Castroite National Liberation Army -- ELN.

The official report given by the Administrative Department of Security, DAS, and the National Police states that the production supervisior of Occidental Petroleum Company was kidnapped by four men carrying submachineguns and pistols who were on 18th Street in front of building No 23-27 in Arauca city. The production supervisor of Occidental Petroleum Company was riding in a station wagon with Venezuelan license plate No IAA-839 with another official of the multinational petroleum company, Amanda Uribe Bedoya.

According to the official spokesmen, the woman was left hours later in a place known as Cano Rosario, on the outskirts of Arauca city.

Meanwhile,the alleged guerrillas of the Castroite ELN fled with the 38-year-old engineer, and their whereabouts are still unknown.

ELN ATTACKS, DESTROYS ROAD CONSTRUCTION CAMP

PA152307 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Mar 87 p 1

[Excerpts] A preliminary report of a violent raid by the Castroite ELN on a road construction camp reveals that some oil workers were kidnapped and the rebels caused approximately 1 million pesos in property damage. The destroyed camp belonged to contractors of the Occidental Petroleum Company.

Official spokesmen of DAS and the Arauca Police Department reported that approximately 60 men, dressed in uniforms exclusively used by the Military Forces, carrying short- and long-range weapons, as well as explosives, violently raided the Narco Company's camp No 1.

According to the official information, the camp is located between Caranal and Panama, approximately 30 km west of Arauquita, in the National Intendancy of Arauca.

The security organizations' spokesmen indicated that the guerrilla fighters overpowered the workers in the camp, which belongs to the Narco Company, a contractor of the Texas Petroleum Company. They then spilled gasoline and oil all over and set up some explosive devices in the installations, which were destroyed by the fire. [passage omitted]

Once the fire had destroyed all the machinery and equipment, the guerrillas fled, kidnapping Colombian technicians Ciro Garcia,Luis Alfonso Rodriguez, and Jose Miguel Rodriguez -- the last two are brothers.

Authorities have reported that the search operations to catch up with the rebel column have yet to yield satisfactory results. [passage omitted]

3 MUNICIPAL OFFICES IN BOGOTA DYNAMITED

PA152354 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] Three minor municipal offices and a police inspectorship were dynamited early yesterday morning in Bogota, causing material damage of approximately 2 million pesos, according to authorities.

The powerful explosive devices were detonated simultaneously at 0500 in the municipal offices of Tunjuelito, Puente Aranda, and Ciudad Bolivar, as well as the police inspectorship in Meissen neighborhood.

Even though there is no information about those responsible, police speculate that the actions are related to the celebrations to mark another anniversary of M-19 leader Alvaro Fayad's death. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

ETHER LAB DISMANTLED -- Sogamoso, 4 Mar -- Six individuals were arrested today when police dismantled a laboratory for processing ether in the Pesca municipality. Aside from sophisticated instruments to process ether, the police found numerous drums and plastic containers of various sizes, among them 48 5-gallon plastic containers full of ether. The prisoners, among them a woman who appears to be the laboratory owner, will be placed at the disposal of the Brigade in Tunja. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Mar 87 p 10-C PA]

COCAINE SHIPMENT SEIZED -- The Attorney General Office's Narcotics Unit, together with customs agents and Judicial policemen, seized 60 kg of cocaine at El Dorado Airport yesterday. The cocaine was concealed in a flower shipment and was supposed to have been shipped to Miami on a Florida West flight. Jose Teodulo Navarrete Gonzalez, who was driving the truck carrying the flower shipment to the airport, was arrested and turned over to a judge. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Mar 87 p 4b PA]

WEAPONS FACTORIES FOUND -- Authorized 5th Brigade spokesmen have disclosed that National Army troops dealt harsh blows to leftist guerrillas and arms makers in the past few hours when three secret weapons factories were discovered in Santander, and eight of their owners were arrested. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Mar 87 p 1 PA]

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PRICE FREEZE DECREE

PA162135 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The government has issued a decree ordering a freeze in the price of raw materials and of all products that are indispensable for the production process and which are necessary for the agricutural and industrial sectors. According to Patricio Quevedo, secretary general of administration, this measure is part of the others adopted by the government in an attempt to allow the reconstruction of infrastructure following the natural disaster. The decree states that the police intendancies throughout the country will be responsible for the strict compliance of the orders included in the decree and of strongly punishing the transgressors as established in the price control and quality law and the penal code.

Quevedo warned that anyone caught committing actions against the interests of the consumers will be tried. The decree explains the steps to be followed in any case regarding speculation, change in established price, hoarding, etc. The government yesterday ordered that all prices must be visible to the buyer and that quality control must be observed. Breach of these orders will be strongly punished.

COLOMBIA BEGINS EMERGENCY PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

PA132054 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Colombian Ambassador Rafael Caicedo Espinoza has reported that 2 days ago Colombia started to build the emergency pipeline that will facilitate the transportation of Ecuadoran oil to Tumaco. He added that the Colombian Government [words indistinct] per kilometer and that it will involve approximately 12 km from the San Miguel River until it joins the pipeline that goes from Orito to Tumaco port. CEPE, the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, will build approximately 20 km to join the Colombian pipeline. [passage omitted]

VARGAS OFFERS TO SURRENDER IN COMMANDO EXCHANGE

PA121930 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] General Frank Vargas Pazzos has offered to exchange his freedom for that of the commandos who are being court-martialed for the events in the Taura Air Base on 16 January. Vargas Pazzos said that this offer is being made in exchange for halting the action against the commandos and so that the proceedings against them will be definitely shelved, and they will be unconditionally and immediately released.

[Begin Vargas Pazzos recording, in progress] ...to surrender myself in exchange for halting the action against the commandos, definitely shelving the proceedings against them, and setting them unconditionally and immediately free. To do this, I demand the fulfillment of the following conditions to preserve my personal safety and dignity because the promises of the president have lost all value in the eyes of the people: [as heard]

1. That my surrender take place simultaneously with the actions that will bring about the unconditional release of the commandos. This must take place before an honorable commission comprised of members designated by the National Congress, the Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees, labor confederations, and the church. [end recording]

CONSALVI DEFENDS VOTE ON CUBAN RIGHTS ISSUE

PA142018 Paris AFP in Spanish 1916 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Caracas, 14 Mar (AFP) -- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi today replied to the U.S. displeasure over a negative vote cast by Venezuela at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Consalvi said that "the human rights issue is so important that it must not be politicized."

"Venezuela's position regarding human rights is indisputable (...). It coincides with the position of other countries of the region and responds to a process of consultations among the Latin American countries," Consalvi said.

During the meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission that ended yesterday in Geneva, the United States promoted a motion to condemn the violation of these rights in Cuba. The motion was rejected by 19 votes to 18, something that resulted in U.S. State Department displeasure.

In Washington, Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, summoned the ambassadors of Argentina, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela, to express the White House's "displeasure" about the position adopted by these countries at the Geneva meeting. The ambassadors were told that an unfavorable vote "cannot fail to have a bearing on bilateral relations between the United States and your countries."

Consalvi said today that "Venezuela's human rights position is unquestionable. In various international forums we have repeatedly voiced our support for investigations [consideracion] of violations in any part of the world." However, Consalvi explained the procedure followed in Geneva and compared that situation with a similar one during the past UN General Assembly: "On that occasion, the Indian delegation also promoted a procedural motion that ended up being approved without having been voted on." The foreign minister added "For that reason, the General Assembly did not voice an opinion on projects promoted by the United States and Cuba on human rights violations. In fact, the result of the procedural voting shows an obvious agreement in the international community regarding this issue." At that time, a Cuban proposal to investigate human rights violations of Black and Indian minorities in the United States, was also dismissed for procedural reasons.

The foreign minister explained that "Venezuela's position in the commission, shared by other countries of the region (Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Colombia), responds to a process of consultations among Latin American countries. We Latin Americans cannot neglect our interests."

"In a struggle as sensitive as this one, we must see to it that reality is not subjected to vested distortions. The human rights issue is so significant and hierarchical [jerarquia] that it must not be used for politicizing," Consalvi added.

Contrary to this, Jose Rodriguez Iturbe, leader of the Christian Democrats (opposed to the Social Democratic regime of President Jaime Lusinchi) and president of the Chamber of Deputies, criticized Venezuela's vote. Venezuela offered "a sad spectacle" in Geneva, according to Rodriguez, "for not condemning a regime that has violated human rights longer than our dictator Juan Vicente Gomez (1908-35) did."

BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON DEBT

PA162200 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1449 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Caracas, 15 Mar (EFE) -- Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre has stated that a country cannot pay more than it can afford, and should not cancel its foreign debt at the expense of its people's hunger and backwardness.

The top Brazilian official arrived for a 2-day official visit in Caracas this Saturday. During his stay he will meet with Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and Simon Alberto Consalvi, his Venezuelan counterpart.

De Abreu said that Brazil decided to suspend the payments on its foreign debt and begin new talks with the creditor banks to reach a formula for feasible and just payments. "The creditors must understand," Abreu said, "that the debtors must have eonomic development, because without it, they will be hurt. For this reason, we must negotiate forms of payment that do not deteriorate our development." The Brazilian foreign minister said that all the countries should form a common front to demand lower interest rates, but that each country must reach individual payment agreements with the banks.

Abreu will meet with Consalvi today to exchange views about bilateral matters, as well as the foreign debt, the Central American crisis, and other Latin American problems.

At 0700 on Monday, Lusinchi will hold a working breakfast with the illustrious visitor, and at 0900 Abreu will leave for Havana.

Regarding his visit to Cuba, Abreu said that after 22 years of interrupted relations, the talks between the two countries will begin with trade, and then seek a closer rapprochement in other areas.

BRIEFS

DRUG MEETING WITH COLOMBIA -- Representatives from the Colombian and Venezuelan security forces will meet Saturday in the city of Santa Marta to continue studying problems caused by the drug traffic and the measures being taken against it in the border area. Lieutenant Colonel Jaime Orlando Vidal Pena, Commander of Detachment 30 of the National Guard, reported that the meeting will be attended by Venezuelan members of the Directorate for Services of Intelligence and Prevention (DISIP), Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) and National Guard (GN). The commanders of Atlantico, Cesar, and Magdalena Departments will represent Colombia. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 6 Mar 87, p 1a PA]

FORMER DISIP OFFICIAL SENTENCED -- Former DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] Commissioner Leovigildo Briceno has been sentenced to 17 and 1.2 years in prison. Briceno, who was chief of DISIP's Intelligence Division, was arrested in late 1985 following the disappearance of 15 kilos of cocaine and 80 kilos of gold that had been confiscated by DISIP. [Summary] [Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 87 PA]

FOREIGN SECRETARY SEPULVEDA ON C.A. CONFLICT

PA132144 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 7 Mar 87 p 3

[By Luz Arcelia Camarena]

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor yesterday spoke to the leaders of the organizations that make up the Labor Congress and told them that the national development not only faces economic challenges but also faces "the persistence of the Central American conflict, which represents a threat of incalculable dimensions for Mexico."

Sepulveda Amor said that the unfavorable world situation -- caused by a deep economic imbalance, political tensions, disrespect for the guidelines of international coexistence, wars, and many other problems. This results in a tense world climate. The defense of national integrity and support for the country's social and economic development are tasks that go hand in hand. Their goals are the same.

Speaking of relations with the United States, the foreign secretary said that this represents another priority in Mexico's foreign policy. The differences in our social formation, economic structures, and history, give a complex, intense, and dynamic nature to our ties.

Sepulveda Amor added that the mere multiplicity of the political, financial, commercial, social, or cultural contacts among the neighboring nations -- contacts that are usually made for different reasons -- can lead to different interpretations of different situations.

A case in point, he said, is the problem of emigration of Mexican citizens to the United States. This complex problem, which has been the source of some uneasiness during the last few years, has been further complicated by the adoption of the Simpson-Rodino law because of its possibly negative effects.

Sepulveda remarked that the ties between Mexico and the United States should be characterized by a permanent commitment by each government to make an extraordinary effort to communicate and anticipate problems, thus promoting a constructive relationship based on dignified and respectful treatment.

In the context of this neighborliness, relations with Guatemala and Belize also take on a special priority, he said.

The foreign secretary also emphasized the active solidarity of the Mexican workers with the government's efforts to define and implement a foreign policy of defense and promotion of the nation's essential interests.

The foreign secretary noted that Mexico's foreign policy has never been based on the use of force or the exertion of its own power to the detriment of other nations but rather on a reiteration of legality and cooperation.

He said that in view of the size and complexity of the problems faced by Mexico abroad, it is necessary to perfect all foreign policy tools and put them to full use. However, he said, what is most essential is the support of Mexico's society as a whole.

"Any thought that the well-being of a nation can be maintained without preserving its integrity and independence, or that sovereignty is enough to fulfill a people's just aspirations to well-being is inadmissible," he said.

Sepulveda noted that Mexico's position regarding Central America certainly involves principles that are very dear to our political fiber but beyond the requirements of our dignified foreign policy tradition lies the imperative need to defend Mexico's vital interests. "It would be difficult for us to escape the negative impact of an exacerbation of the conflict, he said [no end quotation marks as published].

Question and Answer Period [subhead]

During the question and answer period, the foreign secretary remarked that a moratorium would not be a solution to the country's problem because Mexico must be able to count on a substantial amount of foreign exchange to carry out its national development plan.

Sepulveda Amor also said that Mexico's foreign policy must be closely linked to national development. It is not something that can be separated rom the tasks the Mexicans are undertaking domestically but must be a part of our political tasks.

He said that there are other challenges, risks, and problems, in addition to the economic problems. In the past 4 years in the political arena, we have faced situations that at times were quite delicate. Fortunately, because of the governments firmness and the Mexican people's solidarity with the way in which President de la Madrid handled our foreign policy, these situations were overcome, and the national interests were protected.

However, Sepulveda said, in these times of danger, difficulties, and risks, it is necessary to have the support of all the Mexican people to ensure their needed solidarity for the plan that has been undertaken.

Sepulveda also spoke of the activity of the Contadora Group in Central America. He admitted that achieving an end to the conflict in that region will require the investment of much political resources to reach the established goal. He said that Mexico's participation in the peace-making process in Central America is not a whimsical or arbitrary matter but rather one in which the national interests are truly at stake.

Sepulveda mentioned some of the consequences Mexico would experience as a result of a war in Central America. One of the consequences would be a large number of refugees.

Regarding the Simpson-Rodino Law, Foreign Secretary Sepulveda said that it is a very complex law. He said that we must now wait until this law is implemented to see what the consequences will be. Sepulveda also said that once the law is implemented we will know whether the United States will use the issue of migrating workers as a weapon to pressure Mexico.

In conclusion, Sepulveda said that "It is our moral and political duty to assimilate this flow of people, give them adequate jobs so that they can live with dignity and allow, as all Mexicans do, to hold their heads up high."

COLUMNIST REPORTS ON 'IRAGUA SCANDAL', CONNECTION

PA121911 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Mar 87 p 1

[By I. Roberto Eisenmann, Jr]

[Text] Washington -- Where are the millions? This continues to be the most important question in the "Iragua" scandal which has shaken the Presidency of Ronald Reagan. Panama might plan an important part in the answer, according to the elements already known by the investigators.

The Tower commission, which issued a devastating report on the scandal, did not delve further into this aspect other than to reiterate that the whereabouts of the money, which might be between $10 million to $30 million, is unknown. There are parallel investigations under way which will have to find the answer: one by the Senate, another by the House of Representatives, and another by the prosecutor appointed for this purpose.

Members of the Senate investigation commission are about to travel to Panama as part of what will surely be the first contingent of investigators who will visit the country.

Even though the puzzle is still incomplete, the following are some of the known pieces that directly or indirectly involve Panama:

Colonel Oliver North is the central figure of the "private government" that brought about the scandal. Col North had close links with Nestor Sanchez, who recently presented his unexpected resignation as assistance secretary in the Pentagon. It is said that Sanchez resigned because the investigation of the scandal was knocking at his door.

It is known that General Manuel Antonio Noriega has a very close relationship with Nestor Sanchez, who developed the policy of support for Noriega in the Pentagon. It is believed that the Noriega-Sanchez relationship began some time ago in the CIA where Sanchez worked for many years and where Noriega is viewed as an "asset" [preceding word in English] (jargon used in the intelligence community to describe a collaborator).

The Israeli participation in the "Iragua" operation is at its own initiative and is of extreme importance throughout all the known activity.

Manuel Antonio Noriega's intimate relationship with the Israeli intelligence became public when a high-ranking Israeli intelligence official was decorated during the ceremony in which Noriega took office as commander of the FDP [Defense Forces of Panama].

The frequent use of Panama as a point of transshipment in the arms traffic to Central and South America with the indulgence of the Panamanian authorities is also public knowledge.

According to an article published in THE NEW YORK TIMES on 20 January regarding the shipment of weapons to "the contras; after leaving the weapons (for the contras) in El Salvador, the pilots, instead of returning to the United States with empty planes, would stop in Panama -- a major drug transshipment center -- to pick up cocaine or marijuana."

The corporations used by North for the flow of the millions of dollars are Panamanian. The most important include "Lake Resources, Inc.," "Udall Research Co.," and "NRAF, Inc."

These Panamanian companies have their bank accounts in Switzerland. Lake Resources has it in "Credit Suisse," P O Box 142, 1211 Geneva 9, Tel 365-380, according to a chart written by North which was found in the National Security Council by the Tower Commission.

A group called "IBC" (International Business Communications), in which Carl R. Channel, Richard R. Miller, and Francis Gomez are involved, also figures prominently on the chart.

Proof exists that "IBC" passed money to the FDN. On 1 September 1986, "IBC" signed a contract with "Impulso Turistico y Financiero de Panama" through which "IBC" would receive $35,000 a month for a public relations program in the United States. Among other things, it would "evaluate the ability to communicate of government spokesmen...." Francis Gomez signed for "IBC" and Roberto Cordovez for "Impulso Turistico y Financiero de Panama."

The organizations of Channel, Miller, and Gomez ("IBC" and others, NEPL and ACT) are linked in the charts with arrows pointing to "Lake Resources, Inc.," the Panamanian company with an account in Switzerland where it is presumed that a large part of the lost millions of dollars passed through or ended up.

After reports were published in THE NEW YORK TIMES and aired on NBC news entitled "Panama's Strongman Accused of Trafficking in Drugs, Arms, and Illicit Money" and "Noriega: Drugs, Money Laundering, and Arms," the official U.S. Government agencies nervously kept silent, leading to all kinds of speculations about the reason for such silence.

Oliver North in the White House, Nestor Sanchez in the Pentagon, and Elliott Abrams in the State Department -- all of them are connected to the "Interagency Group" and all supposedly linked to the Iragua scandal -- might be the reason for the official silence regarding the reports of those prestigious media about the activities of the FDP commander.

All of these elements are being carefully examined by the investigators in Washington, Panama, Switzerland, and Honduras who are trying to put together the pieces of the puzzle. The answers to the pending questions in the Iragua scandal will probably be obtained in the next few months.

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES 'POLICY OF SECRECY'

PA140343 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p 5

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Intolerable Aggression"]

[Text] Anger could be detected in the voice of the young Channel 2 television reporter as she denounced the hostile attitude of U.S. soldiers in Panama who were preventing her from walking freely around the summit of Ancon Hill, one of the sacred places of national sovereignty.

The young journalist was doing her professional duty by investigating reports from Panamanian citizens who felt their dignity had been undermined by measures that violate the constitutional right to free movement within the national territory.

I do not know if the Panamanian Defense Forces agree with the aggressors in this matter. I do not know, thanks to the televised reports that "the Yankee soldiers were seen physically restraining the reporter and preventing her from accomplishing her mission. [no end quotation marks as published] The wire fence they have built is a symbol of colonialist imposition, an imitation of the cyclone fence pulled down by the students and the Panamanian people on 9 January 1964.

As I always do in these cases, I have waited for an official response. Neither the president of the Republic nor his foreign minister have taken the trouble to explain the incident or to inform the Panamanian people of measures to be taken to prevent such aggressions against national sovereignty and dignity.

It is this passive, fearful attitude of doing little or nothing at all when the circumstances demand action that establishes precedents that are later used by our enemies.

It may be that the Panamanian Government has made secret pacts with the United States, and that by virtue of such pacts the northern nation feels free to prevent the free movement of Panamanian citizens in that section of the national territorty.

This, and many other things unknown to the citizenry could have happened, because every thing seems to point to the fact that we are returning to the policy of secrecy in our relations with the United States. This is a hateful policy of surrender and servility that has damaged the sovereignty and dignity of the Republic; a policy that we believed forever ended when we eliminated the colonial enclave known as the Panama Canal Zone. I still entertain hopes that the Foreign Ministry will offer some official explanation of the aggression against our sovereignty that took place at the summit of Ancon Hill a few days ago.

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED, 8 DETAINED -- Panamanian authorities seized 120 packets of cocaine worth $1 million concealed in gas tanks in the engine room of the Colombian vessel San Isidro. The ship arrived from Buenaventura, Colombia. Seven Colombians -- including the ship's captain and Rafael Montes Giraldez, who was in charge of collecting the gas tanks -- and one Panamanian have been detained by the authorities. [Summary] [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Mar 87 pp 1, 36 PA]

BELIZE

GUATEMALAN TRADE MISSION ENDS WORKING VISIT

FL132030 Bridgetown CANA in English 2024 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, March 12, CANA -- A Guatemalan trade mission headed by the Guatemalan Deputy Minister of the economy, Jose Blanco, was scheduled to leave here today after a "working visit" aimed at strengthening trade relations.

The six-man mission, which arrived yesterday, also explored areas for joint-venture investment projects in Belize with which it has had a long-standing border dispute. The mission has been meeting with Belize Government officials in the Ministries of Economic Development and Commerce and Industry as well as with representatives of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Belizes' minister of foreign affairs, Dean Barrow, told CANA the Guatemalans were visiting Belmopan, although the Central American country does not officially recognise Belize. He said the Guatemalans applied for and received visas to visit Belize. This is tantamount to their recognition of Belize as a separate and independent state. This is clear to us that there is a more realistic approach in Guatemala to solving the Guatemalan claim to Belize.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel confirmed today that he will head a Belize delegation to China next month.

BRIEFS

POLICE ARRESTED -- Three residents of Corozal town, who were arrested in an anti-drug operation last weekend, appeared in the Corozal magistrate's court today. Last Friday, February 27th, (Roy Paracing), his 25-year old wife Naomi, and 20-year old (Herman Williams) were arrested and jointly charged with possession of dangerous drugs. The charges follow the discovery of 35 packages of marijuana weighing a total of 1,252 pounds on the premises of (Roy Paracing). Meanwhile police reports state that on the night of Sunday, March 1, the 35 packages of marijuana discovered on the (Paracing) premises were stolen from the Corozol town police station. An intensive investigation resulted in the recovery of 32 of the packages of marijuana. Investigation of the theft resulted in the arrest of police constables (Gregory Flores) and (Lloyd Rodriguez). The two constables have subsequently been suspended from the performance of police duties. [Summary] [Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 6 Mar 87 FL]

MARIJUANA CROPS DESTROYED -- Belmopan, Belize, March 3, CANA -- The Belize police estimate that they destroyed more than 20,000 marijuana plants in the first two months of this year. The bulk of the plants -- 12,000 -- was destroyed during a police-defence force operation in early February in the Western Cayo District. Some 1,635 pounds of compressed marijuana were also seized in the raid and five Belizeans who were allegedly attempting to smuggle it into Mexico were arrested. A police report said that in another joint operation in the South Stann Creek District the police and soldiers discovered and destroyed five marijuana plantations with a total of 7,800 plants. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2122 GMT 3 Mar 87 FL]

COSTA RICA

ARIAS DISCUSSES POLITICAL, ECONOMIC POLICIES

PA130344 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] "My international policy is crystal clear; I promised that during the campaign, and I am fulfilling it so far in these first 10 months in office," President Oscar Arias said yesterday in Heredia.

He added: "I am not going to hide anything from the people."

Arias then began discussing international politics. He very calmly said: "It is a blessing to live in Costa Rica." He states that in 1978, when Fidel Castro managed to get the now nine commanders to agree among themselves he launched a broader conflict for the entire Central American region."

"The East-West conflict began here at that time."

He admitted in a certain sorry tone of voice that international politics have taken much of his time in the last 10 months, and this left him less time for the many internal problems of the country." [quotation mark as published]

He explained that "Costa Rica's role in Central America is very important, and peace is the basis for everything."

Arias pointed out that the internal war in Nicaragua affects "our tourism and foreign investments, and stimulates the flight of capital."

He then spoke about economics, which is his favorite subject.

"Concerning the foreign debt, we are not asking for fresh money, as is the case with Brazil or Mexico."

"We are negotiating with the IMF." He then pointed out: "However, I want to fulfill and meet whatever commitment I sign with the IMF. I do not want a situation similar to what has happened in the past."

"I want to sign something realistic, something that can be truly met by Costa Rica, and I hope that we can soon sign the letter of intent."

Arias then spoke of the country's expenditures, of the budget, of the needs of the communities, and of the places where there are not even the basic things (water and electricity).

"In 1987, we are going to economize in the budget and save approximately 2 billion colones." He also warned: "During my administration, we will not issue any new currency that has not been previously accounted for in the budget."

The president also included the topic of education, which concerns him personally (Arias was a professor). He admitted that "there are some faults, some big faults in education."

He gave the example of Japan, where the home life participates more actively in the education process. He then said it is surprising that teachers here are opposed to a more active participation by the community in the educational system.

Concerning the Tower Report (on the scandal of the U.S. arms sales to Iran), he said that Ambassador Guido Fernandez brought the report to him, and he was going to study it.

Arias said that there is a struggle going on in Washington, and "they want to use Costa Rica."

"We are not going to permit ourselves to be used." It was announced that President Arias will refer, in great detail, to the Tower Report and its implications in Central America and Costa Rica at 1430 on Wednesday during a news conference at the Presidential House.

MADRIGAL HAILS REACTION TO ARIAS PEACE PROPOSAL

PA160318 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The vote of support given by the U.S. Senate to Costa Rica's peace proposal is a clear message to the Sandinist government, Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal has remarked.

Referring to the positive reaction to President Arias' peace proposal, the chief of Costa Rican diplomacy said that the two most important political parties in the United States are telling Nicaragua that they both want to see democratization in that country. The message means that the two countries feel that this democratization must be achieved in a reasonable time, within reasonable deadlines, like the ones set in the timetable of the Costa Rican proposal.

The support given by the Contadora and Support Groups to the peace proposal is encouraging, said Madrigal. He noted that, as a Central American country, Costa Rica had maintained a rather passive attitude because we were being told what to do [words indistinct]. I feel we have contributed to making Costa Rica and the other Central American countries take the fate of these ideas into their hands, he said, and expressed his agreement with what Contadora has repeatedly said; i.e., that its members could not make up for Central America's lack of political will.

We will not fall into an optimism bordering on illusion that there already is an agreement and that Central America's problem has been overcome, said Madrigal. On the contrary, we believe with absolute realism that there is still much ground to cover and that the negotiations to attain peace will not be easy. He said, nevertheless, that the recognition and support received thus far are a source of joy because the Costa Rican peace proposal has fallen on fertile ground and concrete solutions can be reached.

The foreign minister feels that the scope of a democratic alliance to achieve democracy which Costa Rica has sought is expanding. He recalled that he has always said that this democratic alliance should be represented by the attitude of bolstering democracy and that this is not a new entity [words indistinct]. He said in this regard that Costa Rica's initiative is favorably looked upon by European governments and, therefore, all can begin setting up this democratic effort [words indistinct].

If the Nicaraguan regime withdraws the complaint it filed at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague it would be a friendly gesture, Madrigal said.

He made the statement when asked about reports from Madrid that when the European parties of the Socialist International offered their support to the Sandinist regime they asked for a number of changes of attitude which include withdrawing the complaint. Madrigal said that the withdrawal of the complaint is a sovereign action [words indistinct] just as filing it was.

Regarding the somewhat cool relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua in the past several months, the foreign minister said that our country has made many gestures of friendship but that Nicaragua has refused to change its attitude. The international campaign of slander and the public accusations against our country as well as the suit filed at the ICJ are gestures Costa Rica views as negative in the relations between the two countries. However, the Costa Rican Government intends to take some steps in order to open the door to an improvement in relations with Nicaragua.

Madrigal expressed the hope that any observations on the peace proposal presented by Costa Rica on 15 February will be submitted before the meeting of presidents in Esquipulas. Thus far none of the other four governments has submitted any observation or suggestion on the document, but they are expected to do so as soon as possible. Madrigal noted that it would be advisable to arrive at the Esquipulas meeting, which Costa Rica has proposed for 25 and 26 April, with the bases of a definitive document in order to not delay the regional peace talks any longer.

LIBERTAD DISCUSSES TOWER REPORT, U.S. POLICY

PA131713 San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish 13-19 Mar 87 p 2

[Editorial: "The Tower Report"]

[Text] The Tower Commission report on the Irangate scandal and the diversion of funds from that operation to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries confirms the U.S. Government's grave interference in our national life and the intolerable pressure it exerts on the country and its leaders in order to drag Costa Rica into an immoral and fratricidal war with Nicaragua. The costly propaganda campaign lauding the U.S. Government's friendship and respect for Costa Rica has sought to conceal the dirtiest blackmail and permanent disrespect for our national sovereignty and dignity. Those in our country who have put Reagan on a pedestal and acclaimed him as the champion of freedom and democracy now remain silent when a commission, which was officially appointed by Reagan, charges that the U.S. Administration has not had any scruples in operating with its agents in Costa Rica as if we were a colony, violating national laws, bribing officials, establishing a mercenary army, and resorting to all types of threats and pressures to push the country to the brink of an abyss.

Despite its attempts to save Reagan from the disaster, the Tower Commission is forced to admit in its report that the U.S. policy toward Central America is an illegal and terrorist policy which violates the norms of international law and of peaceful and democratic coexistence among nations. It confirms that Nicaragua is the victim of the U.S. Government, which has raised terrorist practices to the rank of official doctrine. It also confirms that the White House is clearly the past and present obstacle to the achievement of peace in Central America through the civilized path of dialogue and negotiation. The Tower Commission, probably without planning to, destroys the arguments of those who obstinately maintain that Sandinism is the obstacle to peace and who want to impose "democratization" on Nicaragua while they close their eyes to the aggression that the world's largest military power carries out against that brother country.

The big press at the service of Reagan's cause makes desperate efforts to minimize the seriousness of the affair and wants to hide the scope of the Reagan administration's intervention in Costa Rica and Central America from the public. It is not strange that a newspaper like LA NACION only sees in the Tower Report the "quality of the U.S. democracy" and that former President Monge, instead of giving the country a serious explanation of the grave charges that are made against his administration, raises the specter of "international communism" and that he claims, in what is an insult to the intelligence of the Costa Rican people, that the hand of that "monster" probably drafted the Tower Commission report.

The picture is going to get clearer in the next few days and weeks. However, it is already clear that the U.S. pressures obtained concessions from the previous administration that seriously limit national sovereignty and that contradict the principles upon which the neutrality policy is based. It also confirms that diplomatic and economic pressures continued to be applied on President Arias. High-ranking officials of the Reagan administration such as Elliott Abrams and Lewis Tambs threatened him with suspension of economic aid if he reported the existence of the Potrero Grande clandestine airport and if he prevented the continuation of its use to supply the counterrevolutionary bands. The Arias administration closed the airport, and the failure of the pressure on that occasion led to the fall of Tambs and of the CIA station chief in San Jose.

We Costa Ricans should be alarmed by this arrogant, haughty, and humiliating presence in our country of the agents of imperialism. We communists are not the ones making this charge now. It comes from within the center of U.S. power. U.S. senators and representatives are the ones who are admitting and reporting that their government is violating the sovereignty and dignity of Costa Rica and other countries of the region. The democratic sectors of our society should react with patriotism and strength against an intolerable situation that reflects the climate of political and moral decomposition which imperialism tries to create in our country. No one has the right to close his eyes or to deceive himself. If we do not courageously defend sovereignty and dignity now, our Republic is threatened with becoming in tool of the interests of a group of imperialist adventurers allied to the counterrevolutionary and extreme right-wing dregs of the world.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA VICTORES DENIES SHIPPING ARMS TO CONTRAS

PA160306 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpt] General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, former chief of state, has decided to put an end to the controversy regarding his government's involvement in the shipment of weapons to the Nicaraguan contras. Mejia denied that his government had participated in the alleged transfer of weapons.

Mejia also denied reports that General Cesar Augusto Caceres Rojas had signed documents. Let them show the documents if they exist, Mejia said.

Mejia said that Gen Caceres was not authorized to sign documents for the purchase of weapons. Mejia said that only he, as defense minister, could sign the documents, but he never did so. Mejia added that he had made no commitments with any foreign country and he made his only commitment on 8 August 1983, when he pledged to lead the country to a democratization process and to call for elections as soon as possible.

Mejia said that the United States did not even suggest the operation. Mejia said that the United States knew perfectly well his points of view and it was well informed about him, and that is why no attempts were made in that regard.

Mejia attributed attempts to involve Guatemala in this matter to the prestige resulting from the policy of neutrality he had initiated and maintained. On the other hand, Mejia said that the United States had a serious problem and the easiest thing to do was to blame smaller countries. Mejia said that the Tower Commission did just that in view of the giant problem it had.

Mejia also said yesterday that no courts could try him on alleged arms trafficking charges. Mejia reiterated that in the first place, he had done nothing wrong, and if the charges were true, there are no international courts that can try him. Mejia said that there are those who want to involve Guatemala in this issue to harm its neutrality position, which he initiated and maintained. Mejia said that he had maintained no contacts with anybody, much less with those who never helped him. [passage omitted]

PRESIDENT CEREZO BLAMES RIGHTISTS FOR VIOLENCE

PA141948 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo today blamed rightist groups for the increased violence in the country. He made the statements following a diplomatic ceremony in which Mauricio Alvergue, the new Salvadoran ambassador to Guatemala, presented his credentials.

[Begin Cerezo recording] Definitely, two sectors may be interested in this; the ever-present extremist sectors However, at this particular time, and because of the nature of the rumors, it seems to me that this is the traditional attitude of the extreme rightist groups, which cannot allow itself to respect the people's will and want to attain power illegitimately. [end recording]

President Cerezo said that certain sectors, which he says want to destabilize the government, are to blame for the latest acts of violence.

[Begin Cerezo recording] Definitely, three characteristics make this look like a plan to create instability. To put it more clearly, this may be a plan to create instability through economic effects and these effects pressure it into not adopting certain measures it has to put into effect. [sentence as heard]

The three characteristics are: First, cases of violence that, because of their particular characteristics, have had an impact on the public. We are taking firm steps to solve these cases the same way we have been solving other cases. Naturally, our capacity to investigate is limited and we work somewhat slowly, but we are going to solve them.

Second, in addition to the violence, a series of reports are constantly being published, for example, the one about a group that says that it advocates democratization, but is threatening some people. In view of this, the government has clearly stated that the people must not be afraid because of their ideological stands or by their activities if they now respect the laws and abide by the Constitution. However, we have said clearly that any organization of this nature that works clandestinely, threatens people, and affects the people's rights will be pursued and taken to court.

The third fact is evident. It is the alarming reports being published about the economy, which are unjustified. When one causes instability, one triggers speculation. The people buy dollars to hoard because they are afraid. Rumors are even being spread about the possibility of a coup d'etat and (?other subtle) things like that to frighten the people. The truth is that there is no possibility of a coup d'etat and anybody who tried to stage one would be a complete fool. [end recording]

HONDURAS

RELATIVES DENY DC-3 CREWMEMBERS INVOLVED IN DRUGS

PA161514 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Report by Jorge Alberto Dia Castillo]

[Test] The bodies of the three Guatemalans who died when a DC-3, supposedly used for drug trafficking, was downed, were taken to their country of origin on Saturday, Radio America has learned from the legal medicine department of the Supreme Court of Justice and the General Directorate of Immigration Policy.

Brothers Jorge Lisandro Pais Mauricio and Carlos Eduviges Pais Perez, and Carlos Enrique Melgar, and North Americans Joseph Bernard Mason and (Freddy Galeazeato) were killed when the airplane was downed on Monday in Palmital, Lempira Department, on the border with El Salvador.

The bodies of the Pais brothers, Carlos Enrique Melgar, and Mason were taken to the judicial morgue at the General Cemetery in Tegucigalpa on Tuesday. The whereabouts of (Galeazeato's) body is unknown.

Carlos Pais identified the bodies of his sons, Jorge Lisandro Pais Mauricio and Carlos Eduviges Pais Perez, while Carlos Enrique Alvarez identified that of Carlos Enrique Melgar. Carlos Pais said that Jorge Lisandro was a professional pilot and Carlos Eduviges was an urban bus owner in Guatemala. Alvarez said that his friend, Carlos Enrique Melgar, was an airplane mechanic. Both Pais and Alvarez denied that the three dead men were involved in drug trafficking. The identification of the bodies of the three Guatemalans was somewhat difficult because the bodies were completely burned. They were taken to the morgue in olive green bags by members of the Air Force. Once the bodies were prepared and placed in special caskets, they were taken to Guatemala aboard a commercial plane that took off from Toncontin International Airport on Saturday at 1245.

Guatemalan civil aeronautics officials have said that the plane, which was downed 1 week ago, left from Escuintla and was supposed to have landed in Izabal Department. However, the father of the Pais brothers said he did not know the destination of his sons' trip. There was a U.S. registration number on the outside of the plane; inside it there was a Colombian registration number. The Honduran Armed Forces announced that the plane entered the country from the southeast on the border with Nicaragua and that its crew was linked to drug trafficking. Meanwhile, Nicaragua said that the downed plane overflew its airspace and that it could have been involved in contra supply operations.

The body of former U.S. Colonel Joseph Bernard Mason is still at the Tegucigalpa judicial morgue. The whereabouts of the body of North American (Freddy Galeazeato) is unknown.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA ON CONTRAS, REAGAN SPEECH, REGIONAL ISSUES

PA161955 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1728 GMT 16 Mar 87

[News conference with President Daniel Ortega by unidentified reporters before meeting with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh on 16 March -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We would like to hear President Ortega's comments regarding the Ethiopian foreign minister's visit.

[Ortega] This visit shows how the Nicaraguan revolution is firmly and consistently expanding its efforts to other continents, and how the Ethiopian revolution is also expanding its (?positions). Although we are in different geographical areas, we are part of a common front: We are members of the Nonaligned Movement, we are part of a common front in favor of independence and the self-determination of peoples' we are against interventionist policies. This is a new opportunity to ratify the positions of two peoples, two countries that, although they are far away from each other, are facing a common enemy: an enemy that imposes (?restrictive) economic and commercial policies; an enemy trying to crush possibilities for the development of our peoples; an enemy trying to subjugate and destroy us politically; an enemy who does not want us to be independent and nonaligned. The visit of the Ethiopian foreign minister has also served to give us the opportunity to exchange viewpoints on the current situation in Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Latin America, and Africa. We are also giving continuity to the very rich exchange of experiences we have had with Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, leader of the Ethiopian revolution, with whom we have discussed in depth the experience of that great revolution, of the Nicaraguan revolution, and the great bonds that unite us.

[Reporter] What is Nicaragua's evaluation of the recent Nonaligned meeting?

[Ortega] We are very pleased with the results. You are already familiar with the document in which the Harare positions were ratified. We think that under the current circumstances, when there is great concern in the world about peace, when the USSR has made very important proposals in favor of specific measures that will lead to the withdrawal of medium-range missiles, the Nonaligned Movement's positions ratified at the Guyana meeting constitute a new factor in favor of peace. Of course, although the main topic was Latin America, we cannot divorce Latin American problems from problems experienced by the other regions in the world. By ratifying Latin American positions, we are also ratifying our positions in favor of peace in the world, in favor of detente, and also in favor of a very important issue; namely economic and commercial matters, the foreign debt problem, which is strangling all the developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and which leads us to form a common front. There is also the struggle for independence, for self-determination, for respect for the international juridical order, which is not respected by powers such as the U.S. Government. In the specific case of Nicaragua, the United States has refused to acknowledge the ruling of the International Court of Justice, and continues its attacks against Nicaragua.

[Reporter] When is [Guatemala] President Cerezo due to arrive here?

[Ortega] We are expecting a visit from President Cerezo by the end of this month. We view his visit as a positive step in favor of dialogue between the Central American countries and between the Central American leaders. The other Central American presidents are also welcome to visit our country.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Those related to bilateral relations, multilateral problems, and to the Contadora Group's peace efforts: in addition, the proposed meeting in Esquipulas, where the Contadora Group's peace efforts will be a central point of discussion.

[Reporter] Can you tell us the exact date of President Cerezo's arrival?

[Ortega] We understand that his visit will be at the end of this month; the last 2 days of the month.

[Reporter] Are you expecting a Costa Rican delegation in the next few days?

[Ortega] A Costa Rican mission? Perhaps that was reported in an international dispatch. However, formally, the foreign minister has not received any notice yet.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] I think the Nonaligned Movement has done a lot for the principle of self-determination [words indistinct] sovereignty, and independence. It is a formidable source of moral strength which, in various situations and parts of the world, has its effect. Of course, it is not a determining element, but it is a very important one so far as moral and political strength is concerned. It constitutes the moral and political backing of more than 100 countries. The U.S. Government must not underestimate this, particularly in the case of Nicaragua.

It must be taken into account that these 100 countries-plus include many nations that have good relations with the United States. Therefore, the U.S. Government must analyze why its main allies, in Europe for example, as well as its Latin American, Asian, and African friends oppose the U.S. policy on Nicaragua. Thus, we feel that having the [word indistinct] of the Nonaligned Movement is a very important element because of the moral and political support in favor of our revolution.

[Reporter] We [words indistinct] three incidents that seem to be linked: the downing of the C-47 plane or the quote, accident, unquote of this plane in Honduran territory; the facts that were disclosed today, Monday, regarding a document that directly links the U.S. vice president to support for the contras in 1985; and President Reagan's remarks this weekend discussing the U.S. Administration's interest in Central America. Could you comment on this?

[Ortega] I think that what is most important [words indistinct] this weekend was Reagan's statement. In his Saturday message, Reagan again attacked Nicaragua. He said that this is a vital zone for them. The problem is that Reagan continues to have this same view. To him, this is a vital area that they must dominate and occupy. They must also appoint the governments. This area must be a neocolony of the United States. This is the position stressed by Reagan.

This seems to be a completely irrational position. The Tower Commission report is there and Reagan should ponder it. There is also the House vote against the granting of the remaining $40 million for the mercenary forces.

Despite the opinion expressed by the Tower Commission, the House of Representatives vote, the position of the Contadora and Support Groups, and the stand of the Nonaligned Movement, President Reagan again comes up with the same speech. This speech was even more threatening. He now tells Congress that if it does not support him he will continue his policy without that support. He is willing to maintain his policy to the last moment and we know what that means.

It means that there is the danger of a direct involvement of U.S. troops in actions against Nicaragua. This reconfirms our position on this problem.

There were people in the United States who harbored hopes when the scandal was in progress and the Tower Commission had not yet issued its opinion: The thought that this was going to stop President Reagan and that he was going to think about it and would seek a change in policy. However, what was in his speech? What was his response? We heard it on Saturday. It was a response that shows complete disregard for the Tower Commission because he violated U.S. laws just to maintain his terrorist policy against Nicaragua. He pushed the House of Representative's vote aside. He did not take it into account, but he did reaffirm his terrorist policy against Nicaragua. Therefore, this is serious. This is dangerous because it shows that President Reagan's policy is irrational. The fact that Mr Bush and other people are inolved is no longer strange. The strange thing would be for them not to be involved because President Reagan is the main person involved in all this.

INTERIOR MINISTRY REPORTS CONTRA SABOTAGE

PA170002 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Communique issued by the Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Interior Ministry in Managua on 16 March]

[Text] The Interior Ministry reports to the Nicaraguan people that at 0340 on Monday, 16 March, counterrevolutionary units attempted to blow up a high-tension tower located on the coast of Managua Lake in this capital.

Although electricity was not interrupted, the serious consequences that could have been caused by the downing of the tower to families living a few meters from it are worth noting. Nevertheless, the homes of these families suffered considerable damage.

This action is merely a desperate effort by the Reagan administration and its mercenaries in view of its strategic, political, and military defeat. Meanwhile, state security and the Sandinist police are investigating this incident.

Issued in Managua on 16 March 1987

[Signed] Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Interior Ministry

NUNEZ COMMENTS ON CONTRAS, CONSTITUTION

PA140040 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2150 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Panama City, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The crisis in the leadership of the "contras" is the result of "a jump in the military quality" of the EPS, Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan legislative assembly, said today in Panama City.

According to the Sandinist leader, as of late 1985 the army "has cleansed the regions infested "with contras" in Matagalpa, Esteli, Nueva Segovia, Jinotega (northern Nicaragua), and the area of the Atlantic Coast.

In military matters "we have taken the offensive," Nunez said during a lecture he gave on the Nicaraguan Constitution at the University of Panama auditorium. The Sandinist leader said, however, that "as long as the U.S. Government continues with its stubborn attitude of promoting an army and a political alternative," Nicaragua "must be prepared to defeat them (the contras)."

The Nicaraguan "contras" are currently undergoing a crisis as a result of the internal struggles that have led to several resignations within their military and political leadership. The "contra" leaders are meeting in Miami (United States) in order to organize an army and reorganize the directorate of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO).

According to Carlos Nunez, the first duty of Nicaraguans right now is "military defense," followed by enforcing a "survival economy policy" in the face of the world crisis and the consolidation of the revolution.

When asked about the Costa Rican peace proposal for Central America presented in February, Nunez pointed out that it represents "an important effort" as long as it is done "within the framework of the Contadora Group" (formed by Venezuela, Mexico, Panama, and Colombia).

According to Nunez, "constructive results" from the Costa Rican proposal might be obtained during the forthcoming meeting the presidents of the five Central American countries will hold on 15 May in Esquipulas (Guatemala).

Nunez reported that once the world Interparliamentary Union meeting is held in Managua in May, the legislative assembly will discuss "a package of laws," including the autonomy of the Atlantic Coast, the law on the state of emergency, the law on municipalities, and the amendments to the electoral law and to the law on protection of constitutional rights [ley de amparo].

The president of the Nicaraguan legislative assembly said that there are plans to hold municipal elections in either 1988 or 1989.

During his lecture, Nunez insisted on the participation of the various political parties in drafting the Constitution, which he defined as "a political and legal document that summarizes the aspirations of the Nicaraguan people, while at the same time the document defends national identity over party interests."

Nunez arrived in Panama from Bogota, where he also explained the basic aspects of the Nicaraguan Constitution, which has been in effect since 9 January of this year. Once the Constitution was promulgated, 11 articles concerning freedom of assembly, demonstration, and press -- among other basic guaranteeds -- were suspended.

Further Report

PA162155 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1216 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Report by Jairo Posada and Jose Morris Moran]

[Text] On the morning of Friday, 13 March, Nicaraguan Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, was received by Panama University Rector Abdiel Adames in his office. Subsequently in the university's auditorium, a conference on the Nicaraguan political Constitution was held by the visitor.

Nunez arrived in Panama from Colombia, where an Andean Pact meeting, in which Nicaragua participated as an observer, was recently held. Panama University Secretary General Miguel Angel Candanedo welcomed Nunez and those present at the auditorium. Law School Dean Edgardo Molino Mola introduced the speaker by reading Nunez' curriculum vitae. At around noon, Carlos Nunez Tellez began speaking:

[Begin recording] Before I begin talking about the Nicaraguan Constitution and before I thank you for this gesture of solidarity, of respect, and of brotherhood with the Sandinist people's revolution, I would like to recall the first time I officially visited this brother country on the occasion of the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. I would like to evoke the memory of the man who still remains in the hearts of all Nicaraguans, because he gave everything, not only for his own country, but for other countries like Nicaragua, which fought for freedom. On that difficult and complex path we had a brother, who was always at our side and who encouraged us and gave us confidence. I would like to evoke the memory of Omar Torrijos. [applause] [end recording]

Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez quickly reviewed the concepts of constitutional solidarity and he said that there could never be a Nicaraguan Constitution without the support of many Latin American countries and especially European countries.

Nunez said that he had come to Panama to listen and to learn, as well as to explain to the fullest extent the Nicaraguan Constitution. He then elaborated on his country's historical process. In this regard, he stressed that none of the previous Constitutions responded to national interests, and all of them were imposed without the input of the people. In analyzing the social and political foundations of the current Nicaraguan Constitution, Nunez Tellez said:

[Begin recording] The law did not emerge from the law itself. It was born with the revolution. It emerged as a natural consequence, based on actual transformations. Therefore, the juridical order had to reflect the demanded presented by the revolutionary masses, a [word indistinct] that culminated on 4 November 1984 with the lection of the highest authorities. [end recording]

Regarding the process of consultation with the broad popular sectors, Nunez Tellez said:

[Begin recording] National Consultation: The first draft constitution was subject to national consultation. A total of 750,000 copies were printed and distributed throughout the country.

It was published in Spanish, as well as in English, Miskito and Sumu for the benefit of our Atlantic Coast communities. A total of 75 constitutional open town councils were organized, in other words, popular assembies, by which the various sectors of the Nicaraguan people expressed their opinion. [end recording]

Regarding the specific contents of the Constitution, which make the Nicaraguan Constitution a special document, he said:

[Begin recording] Therefore, we can say without any doubt that this political Constitution is Nicaragua's first popular Constitution, because the Nicaraguan people conceived it and provided its contents. [applause]. It is a Constitution that in addition to giving broad guarantees and individual rights in their various aspects, establishes in its titles and chapters on economy, defense, education, and agrarian reform, the necessary social and governmental mechanisms to implement those programs and defend them.

In our Constitution, our people participate in the transformation process, in all its aspects. It shows us that the people are the source of power and sovereignty. A real and effective democracy is a democracy where there is participation and representation. The state is an instrument of change for the benefit of the majorities. The people have a right to organize themselves and to participate in the forging of a new society. It is the people's right and a duty of all citizens to preserve and defend with weapons in hand if necessary the fatherland's independence, sovereignty and national self-determination. We must guarantee popular participation in the administration of justice. The economic plans cannot bypass the participation of workers. The agrarian reform is an instrument for structural changes in the Nicaraguan society. We must protect the citizens' broad rights and guarantees: individual, social, political, labor, and family rights. The unconditional privilege of all Nicaraguans to enjoy on an equal basis their political, economic, and social rights -- including the abolition of inequality among men and women -- is a reality in Nicaragua. [applause] [end recording]

Regarding political pluralism, which is preserved and reflected in the Constitution itself, he added:

[Begin recording] Political pluralism, an example of which is the Constitution itself in view of the process by which it was drafted; mixed economy which permits the coexistence of various forms of society; total respect for religious beliefs and their expressions; guarantee for the multi-ethnic (?composition) of the Nicaraguan people are all well-defined characteristics of our Constitution. [end recording]

REPORTERS INVESTIGATING 'PROBLEM' IN CAPITAL

PA161722 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1657 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Mauricio [not further identified] this morning we heard sirens in the eastern part of Managua, and there was a mobilization by SINACOI [National Fire Prevention System]. It would be nice to know what happened. Was it the beginning of a fire in the eastern part of Managua?

[Mauricio] Well, we have been investigating that problem since early this moring, and we do not have any specifics yet. We went to the MIN [Nicaraguan Interior Ministry] here in El Redentor, and are now going to El Nejapa to see if they know something about this, but they [not further identified] did not know anything about it. We are going there to investigate anyway.

ARIAS ADMITS U.S. REQUESTS TO HELP CONTRAS

PA142121 Managua International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has admitted that months ago a U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica and other senior U.S. officials asked him for tolerance regarding the Somozist counterrevolutionaries.

In this respect, the Costa Rican head of state confirmed that [name indistinct], director of the [words indistinct] arrived secretly in San Jose, but the visit was not reported for security reasons. Moreover, President Arias said that former U.S. Ambassador Lewis Tambs asked his government to allow logistical support to be given to the Somozist mercenaries. Tambs resigned and retired in November when it became known in the United States that he had participated in actions in support of the counterrevolutionaries without legal authority to do so.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES MARXISTS' USE OF LANGUAGE

PA150415 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Mar 87

["Analysis of Misinformation" commentary by Onofre Guevara]

[Text] Similar procedures to those used in manipulative, distorted, and even slanderous news reports are observed in political speeches used as means of information and communication.

We are speaking of varied political speeches, that are all opposed to the revolutionary process in one way or another.

For the whimsical way in which it treats events, a political party that defines itself as a Marxist party is outstanding in this field. Adopting a critical, pseudomoralist attitude, this group has turned against the country's tourism projects.

-- Also adopting moralistic viewpoints, the party appeals to puritan sentiments to win over some sectors and convince them that Sandinism should be exorcised as a promoter of social corruption. This is exactly the behavior of a charlatan who preaches sanctity while engaging in nonsacrosanct actions.

However, this is not a matter of mere preaching, but of political actions that seek opinions and positions to oppose the FSLN. An example of how that type of political speech is mixed in with the preachings of sects can be observed in this statement, quote: It is therefore one of those sinister tourist centers, where the special tastes of the most corrupt international bourgeoisie are identified and catered to from the outset.

They are sordid little worlds filled with slime and depravity where gambling, prostitution, the sale of virgins or married or engaged women that is customary in such places; large-scale trafficking in and consumption of all kinds of drugs, the promotion and completion of dirty deals, intrigue, and far-reaching political conspiracies are harmoniously combined and become the main attraction to the CIA, representatives of imperialism, capitalist tycoons and politicians, and all the criminal riffraff who engage in revolting deals, unquote.

This incredible string of adjectives seeking to impress religious bigots, and quote, unquote, old maids is not in keeping with a serious political analysis, but it is inseparable from the deceit intended to scare people, discredit the revolutionary government, and erect a barrier between "puritans and libertines" regarding politics, just as imperialism divides the world between good capitalists and evil communists. They are attempting to bring politics into the false path of traditional morals to use the pseudoreligious mechanism for political ends, even though they are the self-proclaimed champions of scientific socialism.

In terms of propaganda, this means changing the positive aspects of reality into negative ones, and the negative aspects into positive ones. The intent is to influence the public so that it reaches the absurd conclusions advanced by the propagandist.

Even though it may appear as innocent and silly to use and abuse the pseudoreligious attitude of presenting Nicaragua's political activity as a quote, sin, unquote, it really is not. Notice that among the string of adjectives, there is an allusion to the alleged drug traffic that is allegedly taking place in the tourist center, and this fits in perfectly with the imperialist slander that international drug traffic is allowed here. Moreover, the false puritanism they proclaim almost leads us to the conclusion that peoples carry out revolutions only to suffer forever. This premise ignores the fun, entertainment, and spiritual activities that each revolution involves.

The almost religiously fanatic treatment given to the matter of the tourist centers shows us that a distorted view of reality can mislead even those who consider themselves to be the most versed in the use of propaganda in the ideological struggle.

ANTI-SOMOZIST PEOPLE'S COURTS ACTIONS NOTED

PA150034 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The lower court of the Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals today sentenced four counterrevolutionaries to 3-year prison terms for carrying out actions against state security and the people. The condemned men are Ramon Martinez Sanchez from Zelaya Norte; Sergio Blanco Lopez and Maria Salome Jarquin Arancibia from Rio Blanco; and Maximo de Jesus Rodriguez Villagra from Pavona Central, Jinotega Department. The prisoners have recourse to the appeals court but, even if they decide not to take advantage of this, their cases will be sent to this court for consultations.

Likewise, the lower court acquitted Jose Heberto Montalvan Meza, from the community of La Flor, Yali jurisdiction, Jinotega Department, because there was no evidence that he had participated in actions against the people.

CASTRO HONORS 13 MARCH STUDENT REVOLUTIONARIES

FL161455 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 0226 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Speech by Fidel Castro Ruz at the steps of the University of Havana -- live]

[Text] I do not like to be begged. It is unpleasant. In addition, I do not like to come before this podium without being scheduled to speak. Another comrade was charged with the task of speaking. There is no one more fit for this than Comrade Jaime Crombet, who is young, a student, a technician, and a revolutionary leader. [applause]

Actually, I arrived several minutes late. I believe I owe you a brief explanation on this. I was not in Havana. I was in the interior, quite far away. I was supposed -- was supposed [repeats himself] -- to take a plane. However, I was unable to take a plane here. The airports were closed and I was unable to take a plane to return. The airports were closed because the weather has taken it upon itself to rain when it is not supposed to rain, and not to rain when it is supposed to rain. [crowd laughs, applauds]

However, I had a heartfelt desire to be here tonight. My concern when the trip had to be made by road -- and with the poor weather -- was that I would arrive late, and that is what happened. Therefore, I went through the unpleasant situation of interrupting Comrade Jaime.

Well, you invited me. Now you must stay here, with or without umbrellas. [crowd roars, applauds. Castro laughs] In any event, I will be brief, because I have little and yet much to say, but briefly.

I wanted to be here tonight, thinking that it is the 30th anniversary of the attack on the palace and of the death of Jose Antonio Echeverria near the university. I really wanted to come here to render him tribute tonight.

Yesterday, during a meeting with students at the Camaguey School of Medical Sciences, I had the opportunity of remembering this date. On a day like today all of you, and particularly us, must ask ourselves what we have done, how we have honored our glorious -- our most glorious -- dead.

The day -- or the night -- has not wanted to accompany us in this tribute. Or perhaps the rain has made it more meritorious.

While Comrade Jaime was speaking, I was recalling those hard and difficult years of the struggle against the tyranny and corruption of those days. We remembered how often we marched on those steps, how often students met to wage their battle, how often, during the most dificult days of the repression, Jose Antonio came down those steps leading students, how many times they walked through this plaza, how many times they marched down San Lazaro Street, how many times they clashed with police, how many times they faced the tyranny's fierce repression.

I could not but remember that on these same steps, in this same area, in these very classrooms [?of], the Federation of University Students, approximately 1,200 fighters of our movement trained and prepared amid those difficult circumstances to undertake the struggle against the tyranny and to carry out the revolution in our country.

This unversity, university students mean a great deal to us.

I was thinking that in attacking the presidential palace the Revolutionary Directorate was fulfilling the commitment we had made in Mexico: to unite our forces to carry out insurrection and armed struggle. In those days of the landing of the Granma, they did not have the means and possibilities to coordinate or to undertake the action together with the 26 July Movement.

However, I believe that Jose Antonio carried that within: that promise, that commitment, the disposition to fulfill it. We did not demand it or him. On the contrary, we would have liked that he join us in the Sierra Maestra. We would have liked that we participate together in that struggle, which was perhaps longer, but unquestionably safer. We were aware of the enormous difficulties that revolutionaries in the capital were facing, of the enormous difficulties they had in carrying out the insurrectional action in the capital of the republic practically unarmed.

However, Jose Antonio and his comrades in the directorate understood that there was a way to make an important contribution to our country's liberation: to eliminate the tyrant. Jose Antonio and other courageous fighters lost their lives in that heroic action.

I remember that afternoon, when Radio Reloj remained silent. Only the signal identifying the station, the ticking of the clock, was heard. We were in the middle of the Sierra Maestra. We were a small, a very small, group at that moment. Others were organizing the movement, others were about to arrive. However, at that moment we were only a few, approximately 12. Yes, we were only 12 on that afternoon, on one of the Sierra Maestra mountains that we love most: Caracas Hill, which is really not a hill at all, because it is approximately 1,200 meters high. It is one of the highest in the area. We were tuning in the stations, and could hear the ticking of Radio Reloj.

We immediately realized that something serious, something important was happening. And so it was. A while later, the voices of the announcers were heard again. They began to explain the serious developments taking place. A little later what happened on 13 March was learned, along with the very painful news of Jose Antonio's death.

Jose Antonio was one of the most innocent, simple, honest, and noble youths I ever met. I remember him from the first days after 10 March, when he was simply another student among the ranks. However, he was always present at this university, on these steps, on the front line, at the vanguard. It was not long before he stood out and became the unquestionable leader of the students of back then.

I was also thinking that 30 years have gone by since the day he died. I am certain that he had great dreams, that more than once he thought about the future of the universities, of students, and of our country.

I believe that much could be said here on what the revolution has meant in every sense: in the material, cultural, educational, in every sense. However, above all, about what the revolution has meant morally for our country.

We could mention many material things. However, I know that one would be enough to give an idea of the fruits those sacrifices and the loss of so many valuable lives have yielded. It is enough to compare what used to happen before in this university, on these steps. What was a student's life like? What future did a student have? He was constantly besieged and harassed by police. A university event meant that dozens of patrol cars would begin to move about, fire trucks would prepare, henchmen would organize and line up. The university was always surrounded, harassed, constantly threatened. There was no security for a university student back then. There was no incentive for his studies. When they went out onto the streets, no one knew what could happen to the students, to the cadres amid so many abuses, so many inequalities, so many injustices.

We could say that in the social sense, those students were not exactly the same as those we see here today. Back then the university was more bourgeois, it was more petty-bourgeois. Back then the sons of workers and peasants had very few opportunities to undertake university studies.

However, it must be said that that student body rose above its class. It must be said that they rose to the call of history, of the history of our students, who began to be martyrs of the cause of freedom beginning on 27 November 1871, with the execution of the medical students. They were always a symbol of sacrifice, of martyrdom, and of the cruelty of that colonial regime.

This is the tradition that students continued throughout our history. There is Julio Antonio Mella, an incomparable leader who took the university to the height of its prestige. (and before, one had to say the university, because there was only one university.) He led students to the struggle against the neocolony and against the tyranny. He and Valillo were the founders of the first Communist Party of Cuba. [applause]

Other glorious developments took place over those decades, including the student struggles of 1930, even after Mella's death. The students, independent of their class origins, were capable of continuing those traditions of rebellion and struggle. We cannot say that they had the revolutionary conscience and culture that our student masses possess practically unanimously today. [applause] However, they rebelled against injustice, abuses, and exploitation, even though they were not even aware of the causes of that situation. They had a highly developed sense of freedom, pride, and justice, even though it was nothing but an abstract sense of justice.

However, I always cite the example of our students in the days of struggle against the tyranny. And something else, that is more important: in the days after the triumph, in the months and years that followed 1 January, when youths plunged ahead not only after the idea of achieving freedom, but by the even deeper and more important idea of transforming the society in which they lived, by the idea of changing that world of injustice and inequalities. [applause] They sought to make it a truly just world.

Then ideas began to really be what we can call truly revolutionary ideas. The imperialist threat was being unleashed, as well as its aggressions. The struggle of ideas began: the dispute between the new ideas, the truly revolutionary ideas, and the old ideas, the conservative, reactionary ideas.

At that time there was very little socialist awareness among our people, and even less of a Marxist-Leninist awareness. Anticommunism was the favorite idea prepared during decades to stop the advance of revolutionary thought. Moreover, many people were antisocialist without even knowing why, and anticommunist without knowing why. They did not even have a clear idea of what the founders of scientific socialism were attempting to do, of the immortal ideas of Marx, Engels, and Lenin. To the pride of our history, people, and students, those were also the ideas of Julio Antonio Mella [applause]. At that time no one knew, nor could know, what socialism was, or what a socialist revolution was. The words socialism, Marxism, and communism were banned. They were persecuted.

During those difficult and decisive days of the revolution, students, like a single bloc, almost unanimously knew how to be on the side of revolution, socialism, and Marxism-Leninism. [applause]

That was a great triumph of ideas, of the spirit of rebellion, of love of freedom and justice, of the sense of pride of our young students, above the social composition of that mass. Many landowners, large property holders, all kinds of bourgeois left. However, the students stayed. Not only did they stay, but they organized, they armed themselves, and from the earliest days they grouped in militia battalions. They participated in all the revolutionary tasks, no matter how hard they were. Students and those who graduated took a step forward to join units of specialized troops, which required high technical training. The first rockets that our country received were manned by engineers and technicians who had graduated from our universities. [applause]

Today we really know what the revolution is. We really know that today. Students contributed to that knowledge before the triumph, and a great deal after the triumph.

I have occasionally said with great satisfaction that a law was never issued here prohibiting the private practice of medicine. Moreover, I have reported that there are still approximately 40 or 45 private practitioners. However, why did this individualistic and selfish practice of one of the most humane professions disappear? Simply because university students, medical students, from the first days of the revolution decided to give up the private practice of their profession and expressed their willingness to march anywhere, to the mountains and fields of our country to serve the people. [applause]

This is the origin of this movement which today is gigantic. This is the origin of the 25,000 doctors that we have today serving the people. This is the origin of all that is being done at present in this field and in many others. It is another example of the selflessness, purity, nobleness of our young students. You know that your predecessors opened the path to all of you. This then became a triumph of the spirit, of human morality. The willingness to go off into our country's fields and mountains has become the virtually unanimous willingness of our students to march -- not to any field or mountain of our country -- but to any field and mountain of the world! [applause]

These are the fruits of those sacrifices, including Jose Antonio's. These are the fruits of those seeds that he and his comrades planted on 13 March. That alone, this in itself, which expressed the extraordinarily and incomparably internationalist spirit of our youths, is a gigantic monument to Jose Antonio Echeverria. [applause]

That is why I asked myself: How do we render tribute to our martyrs, from 1871 to those who fell during those days 30 years, ago, to those who fell later? with a homage of remembering him tonight, under the rain or drizzle, in defiance of the weather, although very symbolic? to fill these steps, when the event -- I was told -- was to be held indoors? New cars go by. They are not patrol cars full of henchmen. Nothing threatens us. Nothing [corrects himself] ... no one takes care of us because it is not necessary that anyone take care of us. We know how to take care of ourselves, which is the same as taking care of the revolution. [applause]. How do we render tribute to our martyrs? we ask ourselves, without this meaning that we are entitled to ever being satisfied with what we did.

However, I was thinking about it yesterday, when I met with 1,700 students of only one of the country's medical schools. There in Camaguey, in those imposing buildings that are being constructed for the medical school; in that province alone there are 1,700 medical students. I was thinking: how many schools throughout the country, in this field and all fields. How many students! and today we remember with sorrow what happened 30 years ago. Today we must remember with pride and satisfaction that we do not have a university under seige, but dozens of university centers and schools, replete with youths who are full of enthusiasm and who feel secure about their future, more certain of their future, and more than proud of their work. They are no longer several thousand harassed and persecuted students, as was the case on 13 March 30 years ago.

There are almost 300,000 students, including regular students, directed courses, and the like. There are 300,000 students who are sons of workers [?or] bourgeois, bankers, large landowners, or people who serve the interests of exploiting and egotistical classes. There are 20 students for every student there was before, youths in regular studies, workers and laborers who are involved in diverse forms of learning. There are 20 students for every student there was back then. If those who fell, who struggled those years could have imagined this -- and I am sure they imagined many extraordinary things; we all imagined extraordinary things in those times. But we must also admit that we could have never imagined things as extraordinary as those we have seen come true. [applause]

There is deep tribute, a homage that cannot be more sincere, more heartfelt to those who fell that day. This is the answer to the question of how we have rendered tribute to our martyrs. Needless to say, the future will be much more promising, with much more extraordinary things. Needless to say, there are all the things we are willing to do to defend the revolution's work. Needless to say, we are all willing to die and to -- all of us in an instant -- do like Jose Antonio on that afternoon. And that per se is already a great tribute, a gigantic tribute. We are proving that those men who fell multiplied into millions of men.

However, let us think about only a very simple thing, like the fact that upon concluding this event we will all leave, and this enormous mass will leave for their homes and shelters at ease, secure, with an enormous spirit of pride, respect, and freedom.

Patrol cars full of torturers and henchmen will not surround these steps. They are surrounded by our people, organized people, armed people. We think that all of you will leave tonight like the students of those times were never able to leave, like Jose Antonio was never able to leave this university, in a way that not a single student was able to leave. That alone, student comrades, is a gigantic homage worthy of this 13 March, 30 years after that sacrifice.

Fatherland or death!

[Crowd responds] We will win! [applause]

U.S. SENATE APPROVAL OF 'CONTROVERSIAL ARIAS PLAN'

PA152127 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Mar 87

["Note" feature read by Amalia Sanmartino]

[Text] Greetings, radio listeners. This Thursday the U.S. Senate almost unanimously approved a resolution in favor of the so-called Central American peace plan proposed by the Costa Rican president, which will be analyzed again at the meeting in the Guatemalan city of Esquipulas in April.

The approval is suggestive because, as is known, the U.S. Government is trying to sabotage the real peace efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups by using Costa Rica.

The Costa Rican president's proposal, drafted in Miami under the supervision of U.S. Government officials, was not approved at the San Jose summit held some time ago because, in addition to having contradictions, it excluded Nicaragua, which is the principal reason for holding the talks.

It is not surprising that the U.S. Senate supported this so-called peace plan because for international public opinion any call for peace in Central America is worth attention. However, propaganda hides certain aspects that cannot be ignored.

One could ask: Why must an alternative plan be imposed at all costs when for years the Contadora Group has basically advocated the end of aggressions against Nicaragua as the essential element for the longed-for Central American peace?

Undoubtedly, the so-called Arias plan is a U.S. plan. If this were not the case the San Jose summit would have not turned into a main point of discussion the issue of the Nicaraguan Government's negotiations with the aggressive bands and the holding of new elections in Nicaragua. That action is an attempt to legitimize the counterrevolution as an opposition force.

Arias's proposal was controversial and improbable because the Nicaraguan president was not invited to the summit, although the key elements of the Costa Rican proposal were directly linked to Nicaragua.

President Daniel Ortega will attend the coming Esquipulas meeting. His voice and presence are essential for the discussion of any project.

MALMIERCA SPEAKS FOR L.A. AT NONALIGNED MEETING

Praises Georgetown Agreement

FL131414 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca was designated to speak on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean. During his speech, Malmierca called on the United States to give due respect to the peoples who struggle for their total independence, and he called on the U.S. Administration to cease its policy of hostility toward the Nicaraguan Government.

Malmierca praised the terms of the Georgetown Agreement, written by Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru, and Argentina, with the support of Guyana and other countries. The foreign minister also stressed the need for a democratic opening in Chile and Paraguay, and called for the strengthening of solidarity in the Nonaligned Movement to confront the pressures exerted by the enemies of peace.

The ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Countries concluded a few hours ago in Georgetown, Guyana, with a proclamation calling for peace, and with a final declaration. Immediately after the documents were approved, representatives from several geographic areas made their final statements to the conference.

The content of the official agreements is largely dedicated to focusing in a progressive and positive manner on the current situation in Central America and on the Latin American economic crisis. They underscore the solidarity with the Nicaraguan movement against the aggressions it is currently confronting.

Criticizes U.S. Stand

PA132029 Paris AFP in Spanish 0158 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 12 Mar (AFP) -- Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today asked the Nonaligned Movement to urge U.S. President Ronald Reagan to suspend "his policy of military and political aggression in Latin American and the Caribbean."

The Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau is meeting in this capital to analyze the economic, political, and military situation of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In his speech to the conference plenum, Malmierca, referring to the Central American crisis, said that the United States has not taken a constructive stand "despite the persistent efforts of the Contadora Group to find a just political solution to the area conflict. [no end quotation marks as received]

Malmierca emphasized that the United States has blocked all efforts to put an end to the crisis, increasing its aggression with military attacks and all kinds of actions the political independence of Nicaragua, against its territorial integrity and self-determination.

In addition, Malmierca also referred to Guatemala, urging the government of that country to put an end to human rights violations.

Malmierca also urged the Nonaligned Movement to face the British aggression against Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, accusing the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of increasing tension in the South Atlantic by declaring an exclusive fishing area in Argentine territorial waters close to the Malvinas.

Referring to the foreign debt of Latin America and the Caribbean, estimated at $400 billion, Malmierca said that "for our countries, it is politically and morally impossible to pay the debt, noting that Brazil's stand of declaring a unilateral moratorium on the payments is an eloquent sign that the debt cannot be paid." [quotation marks as received]

CASTRO DISCUSSES PEACE ON URUGUAYAN TELEVISION

FL161947 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has underscored the enormous importance of the Soviet peace program, stressing that CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev is being especially responsible, as the leader of a great nation should.

Castro, who made these remarks over Uruguayan television, said that at present the world has no alternative other than peace, and that given that situation, a new focus is necessary. He said that Gorbachev has shown that new focus.

LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT CITES CASTRO ON DEBT

FL162118 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1912 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Colombian Senator Humberto Pelaez, president of the Andean parliament, has made a call to think about Cuban Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's proposal on the need that Latin American nations choose between their development and the payment of interest and capital on their foreign debts.

During the last day of the sixth period of ordinary sessions of that regional legislative body, Pelaez said that unity is the indispensable requirement to be free of the debt.

The senator, who is also president of the Colombian National Congress, accused Charles Gillespie, U.S. ambassador in Bogota, of intervening in his country's domestic affairs. [passage omitted]

BRAZILIAN OFFICIAL CITED ON DEBT MORATORIUM

PA170022 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto De Abreu Sodre has said that the period of time that the payment of interest was indefinitely suspended could be long. However, he voiced confidence that financial conditions will improve through negotiations with the creditors. The Brazilian foreign minister explained that his country adopted that measure to defend itself, as it cannot pay $64 billion in interest -- as it did in the previous 5-year term -- without seriously damaging its economy. The foreign minister stressed that Brazil will meet its commitments with Latin American countries.

AMBASSADOR DENIES TERRORIST ADVISERS IN SYRIA

TA130955 (Clandestine) Voice of the Turkish Communist Party in Turkish 0600 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The publication of false reports in certain dailies regarding Cuba, especially in TERCUMAN, has provoked harsh reaction among the public. These reports, citing certain anonymous high-level officials, allege that there are terrorist camps on Syrian territory and that Cuban experts act as trainers in these camps.

Cuban Ambassador to Ankara, Israel Tapanes Vento, [as received] termed these allegations as nonsensical and entirely false. He said, "There are no Cuban soldiers or advisers in Syria. The presence of Cuban troops in Syria, which has a very strong army, is unthinkable. If any, there may be Cuban personnel such as doctors, engineers, or nurses."

The Cuban ambassador noted that such allegations are levelled by those who wish to undermine the relations between the two countries.

BRIEFS

ARBITRATION PACT WITH BULGARIA -- A cooperation agreement between the state arbitration organs of Cuba and Bulgaria has been signed at the Bulgarian Embassy in Havana. The protocol provides for the exchange of specialized missions to finalize the specific points in the plan of cooperation, with a view to strengthening the juridical system of the two countries' socialist economies. [Text] [Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 87 FL]

BARBADOS

DEFICIT WITH CARICOM DOUBLES; SURPLUS WITH OECS

FL131709 Bridgetown CANA in English 1759 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 12, CANA -- Barbados recorded significant reductions in both imports and exports last year but the trade deficit with its 11 Caribbean Common Market (Caricom) trading partners more than doubled to Bds29.9 million dollars (one Bds dollar -- 50 cents U.S.), according to official statistics.

Figures released from government's statistical service yesterday showed total Caricom imports last year were valued at 125.9 million dollars compared with exports amounting to 96 million dollars.

The trade deficit with the regional common market amounted to 11.9 million dollars in 1985, but imports were valued at 176.3 million dollars, while exports were worth 164.4 million dollars.

The leading Caricom market, Trinidad and Tobago, bought Barbadian goods worth 24.7 million dollars, while local imports were up at 84 million dollars -- a deficit of 59.4 million dollars. Barbados also recorded trade deficits valued at 18 million dollars, 18.9 million dollars and 212,854 dollars with Guyana, Jamaica, and Belize, respectively. These deficits were partly offset by trade surpluses with all seven members nations of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). [passage omitted]

GRENADA

BLAIZE ON BICKERING WITHIN RULING PARTY

FL122024 Bridgetown CANA in English 2211 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 11, CANA -- Grenada's Prime Minister Herbert Blaize thinks the ruling party will get over its internal bickering this year. "I have great hopes that the New National Party (NNP) will this year consolidate its position and become a united organisation," he told a press conference.

The NNP is a merger of Blaize's older Grenada National Party (GNP), the National Democratic Party (NDP) of Education Minister George Brizan, and the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) of Labour Minister Dr Francis Alexis. Alexis and Brizan have closed ranks in the face of allegations that Blaize is autocratic and the growing influence of GNP members in the two-year old government. Recently, Alexis, Brizan, and Junior Minister for Legal Affairs Tillman Thomas did not join eight other MP's in signing a document pledging loyalty to Blaize.

Blaize told reporters it was not unusual for a party such as the NNP, which was voted into office only four months after its formation, to face problems. The party scored a landslide win in the December 1984 polls which restored constitutional government after nearly five years of Marxist rule. Blaize also said that he expected the NNP to approach the next general elections as one party. However, he refused to be drawn into allegations made by Brizan and Alexis that the differences within the party were of substance and not based around the implementation of programmes -- as claimed by Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell. He also refused to comment on the chances of the government should Brizan and Alexis -- who are among the most popular figures within the administration -- pull out.

BRIEFS

UNION LEADERSHIP REELECTED -- St Georges, Grenada, March 15, CANA -- Top officials of the influential Grenada Public Workers Union (PWU), including President Basil Harford, have been returned to office unopposed, the union said. A statement from the union said Harford and a number of executive members were duly elected to their posts because of the failure of opponents to challenge them. Apart from Harford, others elected unopposed were first Vice-president Charles Francis, second Vice-president Jessica Japal and Secretary Ismay Maloney. Harford is also president of the Grenada Trade Union Council (TUC), the umbrella body for Grenadian unions. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1617 GMT 16 Mar 87 FL]

JAMAICA

OFFICIALS PREPARE EMERGENCY WATER MEASURES

FL101653 Bridgetown CANA in English 1629 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Kingston, Jamaica, March 10, CANA -- Jamaican water management officials are planning emergency distribution programmes for many rural parishes as well as advising restraint in Kingston in the face of eight months of below average rainfall which meteorologists say borders on the official designation of a drought.

According to the Public Utilities Minister, Pearnel Charles, the water situation in the capital was not very critical now, but has to be properly managed. We will have to watch the consumption and make sure the water level doesn't fall to an area of difficulty, he added. But in many rural areas, he said, the drought is getting more severe and we are doing the best to provide adequate water to meet the needs.

Already, the National Water Commission is trucking water to critical areas, and Commission and Public Utilities Ministry officials are this week touring rural parishes to look at the possibility of other programmes. [passage omitted]

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

PEOPLE'S POLITICAL PARTY CHANGES NAME

FL122320 Bridgetown CANA in English 1004 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Excerpt] -- Kingstown, St Vincent, March 11, CANA -- St Vincent and the Grenadines' oldest existing political party has changed its name.

The People's Political Party (PPP) of veteran politician and former Chief Minister Ebenezer Joshua is now known as the Peoples' National Movement (PNM). [passage omitted]

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT OBTAINS DEVELOPMENT LOAN FROM JAPAN

FL111824 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago has obtained a $50 million loan from Japan. The Trinidad and Tobago Government, headed up by Prime Minister Ray Robinson, has secured the loan, which will be used to finance general development. The agreement was signed in Tokyo. The government says the Japanese financiers have expressed confidence in the firmness of the Trinidadian economy and are of the view that the country will be able to overcome its present economic and financial difficulties and resume economic growth.

SENATE ENDS DEBATES ON SCOTT DRUG REPORT

FL131702 Bridgetown CANA in English 1614 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 12, CANA -- The heated two-day debate on the controversial Scott Drug Report ended last night in the senate, after contributions by 16 senators.

No vote was required on the report, which cites some of the country's top police officers, magistrates, and politicians as being involved in the illicit drug trade.

Independent senators made a number of suggestions on how the three-month-old government should now tackle the country's drug situation. These are not the real names. I am sure there must be a mastermind and we must get hold of Mr Big, independent Senator Gerald Furness-Smith said. It should be possible in this small country to identify drug pushers and get at the big boys through them, said Furness-Smith, an attorney. Furness-Smith also questioned the fact that no further action was being taken against Police Commissioner Randolph Burroughs due to retire this month. Burroughs, who resigned days before the report was published, has been allowed to go, as drug-related charges against him failed in the high court at the beginning of the year.

Attorney-General Selwyn Richardson also made a contribution after intense questioning by the parliamentary opposition over who leaked the report to the media. He criticised earlier pronouncements that no one in the then-ruling Peoples National Movement (PNM) would be damaged by publication of the report. The 119-page document alluded to three former PNM government ministers, named in the transcript of evidence but not the published document. Richardson said 10 people had come forward with evidence in the last two weeks leading to 10 serious criminal drug-related charges being laid. One of the matters had already been dealt with, said Richardson, leading to a five-year imprisonment with hard labour.

Turning to the leaking of the document to Guyanese journalist Rickey Singh, Richardson said that between December 18 and 24, he had been the only member of the present government with a copy of the report. Between December 24 and February 5, only himself and the prime minister had copies.

Other members of the Cabinet only saw the report on February 5 when government decided to make the document public -- three days after stories on the report had been published the Caribbean News Agency (CANA). Nobody on this side even had the opportunity to leak that report, said Richardson, adding that he was convinced the leaking had been done by the people who had the report who are known publicly, who at least were able to leak that report.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY APPOINTED TO COMBAT DRUGS

FL131721 Bridgetown CANA in English 2245 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 12, CANA -- In a move apparently arranged to combat reported shipments of drugs into Trinidad and Tobago through the main Piarco Airport, [the] Cabinet today appointed officials representing police, customs, immigration, and a special adviser on the Scott Drug Report to advise the new Airports Authroity, government sources said tonight.

A new four-member Airports Authority (AATT) board was decided on by Cabinet today to serve a two-year term. A further seven ex-officio members were appointed to serve in an advisory role to the new board. The ex-officio members include special adviser on a report on drug abuse, Jim Rodriguez.

Rodriguez, formerly permanent secretary in the National Security Ministry, had been released from the post in a civil service reshuffle last month, freeing him for work on the Garvin Scott Drug Report which linked top officials here with the illicit drug trade. The report had also indicated that Trinidad's Piarco Airport was a main entry point for illegal drugs.

Other ex-officio officers include the new commissioner of police, yet to be named following this month's retirement by former Chief Randolph Burrroughs, named in the report. Also named as ex-officio members are the country's chief immigration officer, Joseph Bodkyn, and the comptroller of customs and excise.

A former pilot with national airline, BWIA, Kelshall Gaylord, was named as the new AATT chairman. The post had been a temporary position following the resignation by former chairman, now attorney general, Selwyn Richardson, last year. Richardson had resigned from both the AATT post and the then ruling Peoples National Movement (PNM) before joining the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) which toppled the PNM at last December's general elections.

Other AATT members are attorney Hilda Goodial and respresenatives from the governing house of assembly in Tobago, and a representative from the External Affairs Ministry, which also has responsibility for tourism.

AFRICAN UNION LEADERS MEET WITH ROBINSON

FL131718 Bridgetown CANA in English 2249 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 12, CANA -- Three representatives of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) leave here for Jamaica tomorrow after a one-week visit.

The representatives, COSATU Regional Organiser Dunsie Khomalo, education officer of the country's Chemical Workers and Industrial Union Brian Moholo, and Timba Zaula, of South Africa's large Metal and Allied Workers Union, met today with Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, at his Whitehall office.

Earlier this week, the team met with officials of the External Affairs Ministry and Labour Minister Dr Albert Richards. The three trade unionists were here to observe the country's 50-year old trade union movement and met with local labour leaders during their visit.

Tonight, they were to be the guest speakers at a public forum on apartheid and trade unionism in Port of Spain.

Their visit here followed similar trips to Barbados and Grenada aimed at forging links between Caribbean trade unions and the relatively young movment in South Africa.

BRIEFS

APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED -- Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 13, CANA -- Ambassador to the United Nations (UN), Doddridge Alleyne has been appointed chairman of the state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company, Trintoc. A government announcement did not indicate whether Alleyne, an economist, will continue to serve in the UN post, but the appointment appears to be part of a pending shake-up in diplomatic postings. Appointments to six other boards were announced yesterday by the three-month old Robinson administration. Government Senator Vishnu Ramlogan will chair the board of sugar company, Caroni (1975) Limited. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1852 GMT 13 Mar 87 FL]

NONALIGNED CONCLUDES FOREIGN DEBT UNPAYABLE

PA161229 Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 14 Mar 87

[By Paul Persaud]

[Text] Georgetown, 13 Mar (AFP) -- Today, at the conclusion of a ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau in Georgetown, the 101-member Nonaligned Movement declared that the foreign debt of Latin America and the Caribbean is "unpayable under the present circumstances." The meeting condemned the United States and Israel, "its strategic ally", for their intervention in the Central American conflict. It supported the peace efforts of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela) on the isthmus, and created a committee to aid in promoting peace in the area. It also reaffirmed its support for Argentina's right to the Malvinas and for Panama's rights to the interoceanic canal.

In addition to the communique condemning Israel and the United States, the meeting issued a "Georgetown Appeal for Peace," focusing on the Central American situation, and demanding a different way to handle the regional debt. The Georgetown Appeal states that "the unbearable burden of the foreign debt, a dramatic expression of the unjust international economic order that must be transformed, delays the economic development demanded by the peoples of the region and seriously endangers their democratic stability." The ministers of the Nonaligned Movement asserted: "The Latin American and Caribbean foreign debt cannot be paid under the present circumstances and without sustained economic development." The document goes on to state, "It is necessary to encourage and strengthen political and economic cooperation and the efforts toward Latin American and Caribbean integration, which will help lighten the enormous weight of the present crisis, facilitate political and economic transformation processes in the region, and promote social and economic development." In the appeal, the Nonaligned Movement stressed its "broad support for Argentina's century-old efforts to recover its sovereignty over the Malvinas." It also supported Panama's right to exercise sovereignty over its entire territory. Another document condemned "the U.S. Administration and its strategic ally, Israel, for their interventionist policies and practices in Latin America and the Caribbean." The document stated: "Israel's activities in this part of the world, particularly through the training of mercenaries, add conflicting and destabilizing factors and threaten regional peace and stability." The document did not specifiy which states benefit from Israel's military aid, but instead reported that "Israel has created an advanced electronic security belt around Nicaragua, similar to the one it installed in the Arab and Palestinian territories to monitor events in the region."

The ministers called on the Nonaligned Movement and the international community to "give the assistance required by Nicaragua to preserve its right to self-determination, national independence, territorial sovereignty, and integrity." They called on the United States to abide by the decision of the International Court of Justice, which condemned President Ronald Reagan's administration for hostile acts against Nicaragua, and ordered that compensation be made.

The communique calls on all countries with interests in Latin America and the Caribbean to "support the Contadora process (the group formed by Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela that is seeking a peace agreement on the isthmus) and to desist from any action that could thwart this process." Finally, the group decided to create a committee to promote peace in Central America. This committee is made up of representatives from India, Congo, Zimbabwe, Yugoslavia, Guyana, and Cuba.

NATIONAL ARMY SOLDIERS TAKEN HOSTAGE BY REBELS

FL091922 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Some soldiers of the national Army were last Thursday [5 March] taken hostage by members of the Brunswijk Gang after a clash between an Army patrol and members of the gang near Bitagron, some 200 km southwest of Paramaribo.

Among the hostages is Sergeant Major Leefland, who is one of the 60 non-commissioned officers, who initiated the overthrow of the government in February 1980.

The Army, which went after the gang, was hindered by obstacles, and a burned bridge.

Last week, the gang hijacked a boat with a cargo of rice. The vessel was on its way to Paramaribo from Nickerie with 100 tons of rice on board. The gang overpowered three of the crew members and hijacked the vessel.

Sergeant Major Short

FL101743 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] National Army Sergeant Major Ewoud Leefland was shot in the (?heart) then burned during a clash at Bitagron some 200 km southwest of Paramaribo, between an army patrol and members of the Brunswijk gang.

During a television interview yesterday evening, deputy commander of the military police, Sergeant Major (Steel), said the patrol was lured into a trap by a guide and surprised by 40 gang members. The three soldiers who were with Leefland have returned to Paramaribo where they related the events.

'MERCENARIES' SEEN 100 KM SOUTH OF PARAMARIBO

FL161855 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The National Army Saturday and Sunday last revealed the presence of mercenaries in the Brownsweg area. This was reported by the Suriname news agency yesterday. The national army was immediately put on the alert and appropriate measures have been taken. Residents in the area, which is about a hundred kilometers south of Paramaribo, have been requested to stay alert and to report all activities of the mercenaries to the authorities.

TIMBER COMPANY TO BRING IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE

FL161858 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The timber company (Brancio) has signed a financing agreement with the Swiss-Norwegian company. With the $30 million loan (Brancio) will, among other things, build a new (?straw) mill. Also, the triplex manufacturing department, the planning, and the drying department will be renovated, while spare parts will be put in stock. The company hopes to increase production within 4 months after the necessary measures have been taken. A spokesman for the company says that after this financial injection, the timber mill won't need government subsidies anymore but will instead be able to earn the country foreign exchange.